

Jordan Times

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Gorbachev calls for united Arab voice

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, in a message to the Arab summit in Casablanca, called for a united Arab position on the issue of a Middle East settlement, TASS news agency said Wednesday. Gorbachev also reaffirmed the Soviet appeal for an international peace conference on the Middle East, TASS said. "The united voice of Arabs is especially important to a successful settlement. We hope that the conference will be able to work out a pan-Arab platform on this crucial issue," he said. The Kremlin leader said there were now favourable conditions for peace. "In point of fact, broad consensus has been reached in favour of an international conference on the Middle East," Gorbachev said. The shift in world opinion towards such a conference was due largely to the Palestinian uprising and the "well-considered and constructive" policy of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). He said the Soviet Union had suggested a number of ways to prepare for a peace conference through the United Nations but also was open to suggestions from others. "We do not reject other ideas as well, provided, of course, that they go in the right direction."

Britain: Soviet move unacceptable

LONDON (R) — Britain blasted strongly the Soviet Union Wednesday that it would retaliate if the Kremlin reduced British representation in Moscow in a so-called "reciprocal" move. Senior government officials said Britain would not bow to what it regarded as unacceptable Soviet demands for a cut in the number of British nationals and their Soviet staff working in Moscow. Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe told the British Broadcasting Corporation the Soviet ultimatum was extremely "arbitrary and simply not thought through." The two countries have been locked in an escalating diplomatic confrontation since Britain expelled 14 Soviet diplomats and journalists last Friday, accusing them of spying. The move was a sudden halt to a recent improvement in relations, spurred by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to London last month. It had prompted fears of long-term damage to Anglo-Soviet ties. The Kremlin responded to the expulsions by ordering 14 British diplomats and journalists to leave the Soviet Union. In a further move, it said that the number of British and Soviet citizens employed in Moscow should be cut from 375 to 205, the same level as official Soviet representation in Britain.

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Independence Day celebrated today

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan today celebrates the 43rd anniversary of independence from Britain. Independence came on May 25, 1946, fulfilling one of the objectives of the Great Arab Revolt, which began early this century with the aim of liberating Arab countries from foreign domination. On the occasion of Independence Day, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, issued a statement outlining Jordan's achievements in development and its efforts in the service of Arab causes on pan-Arab and international fronts under the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein.

The Petra statement also gave details and figures about development achievements of Jordan on the domestic front with particular emphasis on health services, education and public services, and outlined progress achieved in the field of agriculture and industry. The statement also reviewed developments on the political front and Jordan's continued efforts to liberate Arab lands. It reaffirmed that Jordan was seeking to convene an international conference on the Middle East with the participation of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and

all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). It noted that the King has said that Jordan would not substitute the PLO in representing the people of Palestine in negotiations for a peaceful settlement but would continue to extend all possible help for the Palestinians in their struggle for freedom. In his meetings, held during the Holy Month of Ramadan, the King said Jordan's forces would be strengthened to serve as a shield protecting the whole Arab World. On the occasion of Independence Day, ceremonies will be held in all parts of the country.

The Ministry of Education has organised a sports festival to be held under royal patronage at Al Hussein Youth City. Nearly 9,000 male and female students will present performances at the stadium. Greater Amman Municipality has organised several exhibitions in Amman and other towns featuring aspects of Jordanian development under King Hussein's leadership. All government institutions and public organisations will be closed Thursday to mark the occasion.



HM King Hussein

Mubarak-Qadhafi, Assad-Arafat meetings precede discussions on main issues

Arab reconciliation highlights summit

Compiled by our staff from agency dispatches

CASABLANCA — Arab leaders were meeting late into Wednesday night discussing the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Lebanese situation after notching a high point of success with face-to-face meetings between the leaders of Egypt and Libya and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

King consults Arab leaders

CASABLANCA (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday held talks with a number of Arab leaders on the sidelines of the extraordinary Arab summit. The King visited Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and reviewed issues on the agenda of the summit and means to bolster Arab solidarity. Present were Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Royal Court Chief Thooqan Al Hindawi and a number of officials. The King also visited Emir of Qatar Sheikh Khalifah Ibn Hamad Al Thani and discussed with him the current situation and means to bolster Arab solidarity. A one-hour-long meeting was also held on the sidelines of the summit between King Hussein and Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi on developing and increasing scopes of bilateral cooperation. The King received at his residence Kuwaiti Prime Minister Sheikh Sa'd Abdullah in the presence of Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah. Sharif Zaid held talks with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal.

The summit deliberations, which also covered the Iran-Iraq situation after eight years of war, were expected to continue and the summit was expected to end early Thursday.

According to sources quoted by news agencies, the issue that assumed centre-stage in the discussions was Lebanon, where rival governments are vying for power and recognition. None of the two — one led by civilian acting Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss and the other by army commander Michel Aoun — is represented at the summit.

The Mubarak-Qadhafi meeting took place at the residence of Algerian President Chadli Benjedid, who attended part of the encounter, reports said. Aides, journalists and security men applauded when the two men emerged to join other Arab leaders at the summit session.

"The meeting was very positive and we're optimistic for the future of the Arab Nation," said Benjedid. Qadhafi and Mubarak made no comment. The Algerian news agency

(APS) said Assad met Arafat for reconciliation talks mediated by Algeria.

Assad and Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), last met in April 1988 in Damascus but failed to resolve their differences.

APS said Benjedid and Arafat went to visit Assad at his villa, where they were joined by Qadhafi.

APS said the four leaders discussed ways to improve joint Arab action, but gave no details. Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa met his PLO counterpart Farouk Kaddoumi in Harare at the home of the Algerian ambassador last week.

The heads of state, already behind schedule, met briefly early Wednesday afternoon and came back at 6 p.m. (1800 GMT) to start serious work on Lebanon and Palestine.

Lebanon, where more than 350 people have been killed since March, is the most divisive subject. The foreign ministers have already reached a preliminary compromise on the peace strategy adopted by the PLO.

Bush urges Arabs to endorse PLO move

CASABLANCA (Agencies) — U.S. President George Bush urged the Arab summit Wednesday to endorse the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) peace moves and not to block elections in the Israeli-occupied territories.

"The Casablanca summit offers a possibility for the Arab League to enhance prospects for peace by endorsing the steps... (PLO chairman Yasser) Arafat took in accepting (U.N. Security Council) resolution 242 and Israel's right to exist and in unequivocally renouncing terrorism," Bush said in a message to summit host King Hassan of Morocco.

Although the message does not mention any PLO role in peace negotiations, it recognises Arafat's strategy as a way towards Middle East peace.

"The summit could also provide some encouragement for elections, or failing that at least avoid steps that would only add to the obstacles we already face," said the message, released by the U.S. embassy in Rabat.

The PLO has rejected an Israeli proposal for Palestinian elections ahead of an interim period of self-rule and negotiations on a final settlement.

The PLO wants any elections to lead to an independent Palestinian state and says they should be carried out under international supervision after an Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"Elections — if grounded in a political process that leads to political negotiations on the final status of the territories — offer a potential opportunity for progress," Bush said.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, in a speech Monday, took a stern line with Israel, saying the Zionist state should abandon expansionist dreams.

In his message to King Hassan, Bush said the United States believed Arab League peace efforts offered "the best prospect of ending the fighting and achieving a lasting peaceful political solution which includes national reconciliation and withdrawal of all foreign forces" from Lebanon.

Arens assails Baker speech

Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens criticised Baker Wednesday for challenging Israeli policy, saying his speech had offended Israel and possibly raised false hopes in the Arab World.

"Mr. Baker's words were not (just) offensive to members of my Likud party central committee, they were offensive to the state of Israel," Arens told an airport news conference.

In his first major policy statement on the Middle East, Baker urged Israel to abandon the dream of a greater Israel, halt settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and grant Palestinians political rights.

Most Israeli newspapers called the remarks a shocking and unprecedented attack.

Speaking on his return from talks with the Bush administration in Washington and the European Community in Brussels, Arens said Baker's speech to a pro-Israel lobby group could harm the Zionist state.

"Mr. Baker's words were especially saddening for me because it was agreed between Israel and the United States that we would not argue in public and (they) do not strengthen the alliance between Israel and the U.S."

Khomeini recovering

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, was recovering Wednesday from surgery to stop internal bleeding.

Khomeini, 88, held a brief meeting with close aides at the Tehran hospital where he underwent an operation on the digestive tract Tuesday, Tehran Radio reported.

Parliamentary Speaker Ali Akbar Hasani Rafsanjani was quick to stress his position in Khomeini's inner circle by announcing that he had visited the ayatollah.

"I come to you from a visit to his holiness the imam (Khomeini) and praise be to God, his condition is very good," he told a rally marking — the anniversary what Iran sees as "an advance made in the eight-year war with Iraq."

"God willing, we will see the imam for long years, healthier and stronger, at the helm of the Islamic revolution," the Iranian news agency IRNA quoted Rafsanjani as saying.

"He was in bed, and the doctors were around him. His health was very good," he said. "He was very cheerful. I asked him if he had any pain, and he replied that he has very little and that he is comfortable."

"He is feeling very well," Rafsanjani said. President Ali Khamenei told the radio that the operation was "extremely successful."

Khamenei led a prayer session, similar to others held around the country, for Khomeini's health in the mosque near the patriarch's Tehran home, the reports said.

Tehran radio said Iranians prayed for Khomeini's full recovery in mosques across the country. The Armenian community announced it would hold thanksgiving services Friday.

Khomeini's son said Tuesday the revolutionary patriarch was in "very good condition" after the surgery.

The younger Khomeini told Tehran Radio several hours after the operation was disclosed on Tuesday. "There is nothing for the people to worry about."

Iranian television, later showed film of Khomeini leaning on a stick, walking slowly into a Tehran hospital accompanied by his son.

It also showed Khomeini after surgery, wrapped in a colourful shawl and rubbing a string of prayer beads in one hand, propped up on a hospital bed with an intravenous drip in his arm.

Power struggle likely to intensify, page 2

Israelis raid W. Bank villages, detain dozens

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops arrested dozens of Palestinians in overnight raids in the occupied West Bank, the army and Arab sources said Wednesday.

An army spokeswoman said troops carried out search-and-arrest operations in Al Amari refugee camp near Ramallah and Husan village near Bethlehem. She declined to say how many people were detained.

Palestinian sources said the army arrested at least 40 people in Husan and rounded up dozens of youths at a U.N. school in Amari.

The army also made arrests in several other West Bank villages, sources said.

The raids, described by the army as "initiative actions, are part of a crackdown resumed last week to detain Palestinian activists."

More than 30 West Bank villages have been raided since Sunday and scores of Palestinians detained.

In another development, the Israeli parliament gave preliminary

approval to a bill that would allow authorities to confiscate the money or property of organisations or of people convicted of "security" offences in Israel and the occupied territories.

The bill also permits the courts to by-pass laws of evidence in the interest of "national security."

The bill must be approved in two more readings before parliament before it becomes law.

In Bethlehem, police found the body of Walid Darwish, 40, a suspected drug dealer, and said he was killed overnight. Palestinians said it was unclear if he had been suspected of collaborating with Israel.

Israeli forces were attacked with gunfire and a home-made bomb Wednesday amid growing concern in Israel that the 18-month Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories was turning to armed struggle.

The latest attacks in the West Bank, slightly injuring a soldier, followed a call purportedly issued by leaders of the uprising to liquidate a soldier or Jewish settler for every Arab killed by

Israelis.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) distanced itself from the call.

Wednesday's incidents were the fourth and fifth armed attacks on Israeli forces in less than a week.

The soldier was hurt when a home-made bomb exploded in Bir Zeit near Ramallah, sources said. In Bethlehem, shots were fired at a foot patrol. No one was hurt but troops imposed a curfew while looking for suspects.

On Wednesday, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir was in Madrid and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin in Washington to promote an Israeli proposal that envisages letting Palestinians of the occupied territories elect negotiators to peace talks with Israel.

In Ramallah, Brigadier-General Al Shaik Erez, head of the West Bank "civil administration," met separately with 10 Palestinians to promote the plan, officials said.

Leading Palestinians and the PLO have largely rejected the proposal.

U.S. president welcomes Soviet plan to cut forces

NEW LONDON, Connecticut (Agencies) — President George Bush Wednesday welcomed a sweeping new Soviet proposal to cut troops, tanks and artillery in Europe and said the East-West military situation there could be transformed.

"Through negotiations, we can now transform the military landscape of Europe. The issue are complex. The stakes are very high, but the Soviets are now being forthcoming and we hope to achieve the reductions that we seek," Bush said in a commencement address at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy.

Bush praised Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's reform movement and said he would like to see the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact alliance in Eastern Europe assume a defensive posture like that of the U.S.-led North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).

"Our aim is nothing less than removing war as an option in Europe," Bush said.

His statement was apparently prompted by a Soviet proposal at the conventional forces in Europe (CFE) talks in Vienna.

At Vienna conventional arms talks Tuesday, Soviet negotiators made a proposal that is much closer to that of NATO — a reduction of one million troops on each side, Warsaw Pact reductions in tanks of 40,000 and in combat vehicles of 42,000, as well as cutting artillery pieces by 47,000.

Although Bush did not directly mention the Soviet offer, White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater told reporters earlier that the report regarded it as meaningful and serious.

Bush challenged Gorbachev to disclose accurate figures on Soviet military spending. "Open the ledger," Bush said.

Bush declared communism "a failed system" and said the West was entering a new era based on economic and political success.

"There is an opportunity before us to shape a new world," Bush said.

We wished Gorbachev success in attempting to restructure the Soviet economy and said lasting peace was now more likely than ever before.

But Bush said it still was necessary to maintain strong nuclear deterrence with a new U.S. long-range mobile missile and making other ocean-spanning land-based missiles transportable.

"We live in a time when we are witnessing the end of an idea, the final chapter of the communist experiment," Bush said. He called communism "a failed system, one that promised economic prosperity but failed to deliver the goods, a system that built a wall between the people and their political aspirations."

He urged further reductions by the Soviet-led alliance.

Additionally, Bush called on the Soviets to disclose accurate accounts of their military outlays.

Bush also played on the theme of open markets in his speech and said "if we succeed, the next decade, and the century beyond, will be an era of unparalleled growth."

Bush said success also required an end to conflict and turmoil. He said the United States and its allies were pursuing a strategy of strength, economically, diplomatically and militarily.

should triumph over any quarrel."

Mitterrand was the only speaker to refer to the conflict which is expected to overshadow the three-day meeting.

The opening ceremony took place at Dakar's international trade fair complex where, just three weeks ago up to 20,000 Mauritians fled for their lives as gangs roamed the Senegalese capital bent on revenge for the killing of Senegalese in Mauritania.

No Mauritians were in the hall to hear Mitterrand's appeal. Nouakchott recalled its ambassador from Senegal Tuesday.

Senegal has not retaliated but diplomats and officials expect the sabre-rattling between two former French colonies to resume once the guests have left.

Mitterrand urges West Africa peace

DAKAR (Agencies) — French President Francois Mitterrand indirectly urged Senegal and Mauritania Wednesday to end the conflict which killed hundreds in ethnic riots last month.

Mauritania's Interior Minister Djibril Ould Abdallahi said Wednesday that Mauritania troops are gathering on the frontier with Senegal and there is a growing possibility of war between the two neighbours.

In an interview on French television network Antenne 2, Abdallahi said Mauritania was ready to make war if "Senegal makes it."

"When a frontier that seemed to be settled is thrown into question and troops mass on the other side, one is obliged to do the same thing," he said, without providing any details on Senegalese troop movement.

He confirmed, however, that Mauritania had massed troops on the frontier that follows the Senegal river, although he declined to give their precise location or number.

"I don't know where, but in any case, the Mauritania troops are on our bank," he said.

The minister, asked if war was possible, said it was.

He added that France was partially responsible for the current conflict since during colonial rule it transferred people from one country to the other.

Anti-Senegalese violence in Mauritania and violence against Mauritians in Senegal in recent weeks has left an estimated 260 people dead. The dispute between the two countries has long historical and racial roots, but the

latest confrontation was sparked by a minor border incident. Tens of thousands of Mauritians and Senegalese were repatriated in a massive airlift.

Two new dams on the Senegal River have opened up the possibility of increased agricultural opportunity in the arid region.

Mitterrand, addressing the opening of the third summit of French-speaking peoples, did not refer to the two West African neighbours by name. But his intention was clear.

"Several of you have clashed in the past," he told leaders of 41 Francophone countries and provinces. "And (some countries) could be tempted to do so. They should realise that there are institutions for dialogue, arbitration and mediation, and that such dialogue

Students await outcome of power struggle

Peking quiet, protests continue in provinces

PEKING (Agencies) — Anti-government unrest and strikes persisted in China's provincial cities Wednesday while Peking's student-led protesters stayed calm as they awaited the outcome of a power struggle that will decide their fate.

China's top leaders, invisible since Friday, were nowhere to be seen — in public or in the official media.

Foreign diplomats said it appeared that a power struggle between hardline Premier Li Peng and reformist Communist Party chief Zhao Ziyang was still unresolved.

Student protesters occupying Tiananmen Square for the 12th day, eagerly awaited the arrival in China of Wan Li, chairman of the National People's Congress, who cut short his visit to the United States to return home.

A Zhao ally, Wan was said officially to be returning for health reasons.

But students hoped he would call an emergency session of parliament which would dismiss Li for trying to suppress China's nationwide democracy movement with the weight of martial law.

A government spokesman said he expected the 73-year-old Wan to arrive in China aboard his special plane by Thursday but did not know the exact time.

Students prepared to greet him along the Peking airport highway but diplomats said he might land in Shanghai.

Official media generally portrayed a picture of normality in Peking with transport restored and business recovering despite the occupation of the square by more than 20,000 protesting students.

Hundreds of thousands of people also took to the streets in dozens of other cities, from Lanzhou in the northwest to Canton in the south. Foreign sources contacted in several cities said all the protests were calling for Li to step down.

When the pro-democracy

movement started five weeks ago, students initially called for a freer society and less corrupt government. But after martial law was ordered, they demanded that top leaders resign.

Foreign Minister Qian Qichen told diplomats that Zhao had returned to work. The statement, the first official mention of Zhao in several days, came amid reports he had offered to resign last week over the martial law order.

The official Xinhua news agency Tuesday also mentioned Zhao for the first time since the reports of his resignation offer.

In Shanghai, author Ba Jin was one of 500 intellectuals and high-ranking party members who signed a letter criticising Li's speech on the crackdown. Ba, not a party member, is chairman of the Chinese Writers Association and the nation's best-known living writer.

Government sources said Hu Qili, one of five members of the

policy-making politburo standing committee, had thrown his support to Zhao.

Such a development would represent a further blow to Li's authority.


Hu is in charge of the state-run press. On Tuesday, some media outlets began issuing reports that included criticism of Li's attempts to carry out martial law in Peking.

More than 10,000 people, many of them striking transport workers, marched through Changsha in Hunan province, chanting "Li Peng resign," witnesses said.

A Western resident said 18 factories in the city had gone on strike Tuesday and some workers were still out.

Earlier, Catholic women had marched through the streets, tears in their eyes, praying for the souls of Peking students rumoured to have died of their pro-democracy hunger-strike.

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Moscow sends more tanks to Kabul in show of support

KABUL (R) — The Soviet Union poured fresh supplies of tanks and artillery into Kabul Wednesday in a dramatic show of support for the embattled government of Afghan President Najibullah.

Najibullah, defying predictions his government would collapse as soon as the last Soviet forces withdrew last February, has launched a new drive to persuade Mujahideen rebel commanders to start peace talks, saying he cannot be defeated militarily.

Three days after he announced his latest proposals to end 10 years of bloodshed in Afghanistan, the Soviet Union delivered a huge convoy of trucks, tanks, artillery and command vehicles.

The column of T-62 and T-54 tanks, armoured personnel carriers and artillery driven by Afghan soldiers was followed by a long line of fuel trucks, relieving a petrol shortage in the Afghan capital.

Helicopter gunships escorted the convoy into the capital as it passed through the ring of snow-capped peaks around Kabul.

An Afghan brigadier supervising the column at a checkpoint at the entrance to Kabul declined to say how many vehicles were in the convoy.

"What I can tell you is that it has taken an hour to pass this point so far and we'll be here for another half-hour at least until the last one has gone by," he said.

Western correspondents estimated the column at between 400 and 500 vehicles. Tanks took trails of dust and black clouds of exhaust into the clear Kabul sky as sheep and cattle grazed by the roadside.

The brigadier, who declined to be identified, said the convoy had come down the Salang Highway from the Soviet border and there had been no trouble on the road which is sometimes hit by guerrilla ambushes.

Soviet transport planes also deliver daily supplies of food and ammunition to Kabul. A government spokesman said the capital had been quiet for several days now and there had been no guerrilla rocket attacks on the capital since Saturday.

Military analysts said some of the armour would reinforce Jalalabad 120 kilometres east of Kabul, which has been under siege by Mujahideen guerrilla units since March.

Najibullah, a former head of the Afghan secret police who became president in September 1987, said at the weekend that the failure of the guerrillas to take Jalalabad showed they could not win on the battlefield.

In a further speech Tuesday he suggested a peace formula involving a ceasefire, an international conference to secure Afghanistan's neutrality, formation of a broad-based government followed by elections and the drawing up of a new constitution for the rugged, landlocked nation of 17 million people.

Several Mujahideen leaders both inside and outside Afghanistan rejected his proposals.

Najibullah's Afghan government is doomed to collapse due to rebel attacks and will probably be replaced by a weak coalition of Mujahideen guerrilla groups, a leading political research group said.

The International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) said in its annual strategic survey the withdrawal of Soviet troops in February had brought out rivalries between rebel groups. But there was no immediate danger of civil war.

The IISS ruled out cooperation between rebels besieging major cities and the Kabul government.

"The communist regime is doomed to disappear even if it takes some months after the Soviet forces pull out... the next regime will probably be a puritan and conservative Islamic republic," said the survey by the independent London-based institute.

It said the next government, including groups loyal to Iran and others backed by Pakistan, would inevitably be weak.

"In the countryside there will be a mosaic of power, made up in part of large political units, in part of loose tribal confederations, in part of areas plunged into anarchy due to local feuds," the review of world events said.

"Patchy as this sounds, it could still provide an equilibrium stable enough to maintain a regional stability which would not provoke foreign intervention and would allow Afghanistan to regain its historical status as a buffer state," the survey added.



HOUSE DEMOLITION... Israeli forces blow up the home of a Palestinian suspected of involvement in the 17-month-old uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Demolition of Palestinian home is a form of collective punishment meted out by the occupation authorities against resistance activities by the people living in the occupied territories.

U.N. plans Iran-Iraq contacts

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Further U.N. contacts are needed with Iran and Iraq before Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar can decide on his next move in trying to end the Gulf war, a U.N. spokeswoman said Tuesday.

She said Perez de Cuellar held a 90-minute meeting with his personal representative for the Gulf, Ambassador Jan Eliasson, to discuss contacts the Swedish diplo-

mat had here last week with Iranian and Iraqi officials.

"The secretary-general feels that more discussions are needed and he has asked his personal representative to continue the contacts before making a decision on what the next step should be," she said.

The foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq have held several rounds of inconclusive "proximity talks" under Perez de Cuellar's auspices

since a ceasefire in the Gulf war went into effect last August.

After the most recent round, in Geneva last month, the secretary general said he hoped to be able to convene another session some time in June.

The U.N. spokesman said Perez de Cuellar regretted that a 1987 Security Council resolution setting out a blueprint for peace had not yet been fully implemented.

Iraq in, Iran out in UNCHR vote

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Iran, with only nine votes, was rejected in its bid Tuesday to join the U.N. Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR), while Iraq won entry by 28 votes.

Abdul Hamid Ghodse of Iran received seven votes and was defeated in his bid for membership of the International Narcotics Control Board.

Pakistan and the Philippines were elected to the human rights commission along with Brazil, France, Ghana, Hungary, Italy, Madagascar, Mexico, Pakistan, Senegal, Somalia, the United States and Yugoslavia.

The Economic and Social Council conducted elections by secret ballot, with these other

results:

Statistical Commission: France, West Germany and the Netherlands.

Population Commission: Botswana, China, Iran, Mexico, the Soviet Union, Britain and the United States.

Commission on Human Rights: Ghana, Senegal, Madagascar, Pakistan, Philippines, Iraq, France, Italy and the United States.

The United States received 33 votes compared to 47 for Italy and 44 for France. (Austria was rejected, receiving 31 votes).

Commission on Narcotics: Japan, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Britain, Australia, Spain, Sweden and Belgium.

(Iran came in at the low end with 14 votes.)

Commission on Transnational Corporations: China, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, France, East Germany, West Germany, Iran, Japan, Switzerland, Tunisia, Uruguay and Zimbabwe.

UNICEF board: Barbados, Canada, China, Finland, West Germany, the Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Thailand and Zimbabwe.

U.N. Development Programme governors: India, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, West Germany, Denmark, Portugal, the Netherlands and Switzerland.

International Narcotics Control Board: Quijano Narezco of Mexico and Wladimir Wieniawski of Poland.

Soviet officials meet with defector

ANKARA (R) — Soviet embassy officials were allowed to visit and talk to a Soviet air force pilot who defected with his MiG-29 to Turkey over the weekend, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Wednesday.

Inal Batu said the pilot, Captain Alexander Zuyev, had been

refusing to see Soviet officials, contending he had left his country of his own free will and did not plan to go back. "But we persuaded him to meet with embassy officials in view of the friendly relations between our two countries," he told reporters at his weekly briefing.

The meeting took place Tuesday, he said.

Since the defector landed his high technology aircraft at the airport of the Black Sea coastal city of Trabzon last Saturday, Turkish officials have been anxious to handle the affair in a way that would cause the least harm to Turkish-Soviet relations.

Khomeini ailment seen likely to fuel Iranian power struggle

By Ed Blanche
The Associated Press

NICOSIA — Surprise disclosures that Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini has undergone surgery come at a time of intense struggle within Iran's fragile leadership structure over who will succeed him.

The public admission that the 89-year-old imam, as he is known, was even ill marked a major departure for Iranians, who for the last three years have only glimpsed the republic's supreme leader on television.

The reports by the state television and radio networks that Khomeini was in "exceptional condition" for his age, despite the surgery Tuesday to stop intestinal bleeding, appeared aimed at reassuring Iranians the revolutionary patriarch was still at the helm.

"I would like to inform listeners and viewers that his

eminence... is perhaps one of history's exceptions in his physical structure and state of health," the chief surgeon, Dr. Hassan Arefi, declared.

That may have comforted Khomeini's followers. But it was also a reminder of Khomeini's mortality and emphasised that the question of who will rule Iran in the post-Khomeini era is wide open.

On March 28, Khomeini dumped his designated successor, Ayatollah Hussein-Ali Montazeri, is one of Iran's biggest political upheavals since the 1979 revolution ended 2,400 years of monarchy.

Political and religious leaders are grappling with changing the revolutionary constitution to eliminate what Khomeini calls "flaws and imperfections" and settle the leadership question.

The recommendations of the 20-man constitutional committee that Khomeini appointed will go before voters in a referendum in mid-August — the same time Iranians vote for a new president.

Since Iran abruptly accepted a cease-fire in the eight-year war with Iraq last summer, it has been gripped by political uncertainty.

Anti-Western revolutionary radicals led by Prime Minister Hussein Musavi and Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, who favour tight control of the economy, are locked in a power struggle with those seeking more free enterprise and links with the West.

In March, Montazeri was forced to resign after criticising Khomeini's policies and questioning what the revolution had achieved in its first decade.

Montazeri's resignation followed Khomeini's sharp swing back to fundamentalist radicalism. In February, Khomeini ordered Muslims to seek out and kill British author Salman Rushdie for his novel, "The

Satanic Verses," charging it blasphemes Islam.

The death call brought widespread Western condemnation of Iran, smothering moves towards liberalisation and efforts by Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani and others to end Iran's self-imposed isolation.

The radical resurgence intensified a wave of executions of political dissidents and purges.

The power struggle is likely to intensify.

"Montazeri's resignation... raises the question of how far Ayatollah Khomeini is prepared to go in his current drive to root out revisionism," commented Charles Snow, an analyst with the Middle East Economic Survey weekly.

"It may be that the ayatollah is feeling his mortality and is trying, like Chairman Mao in China, to ensure the future of his revolution after his death by turning the radicals loose while he is still alive," Snow said.

The uncertainty is compounded by Khomeini's tactic of constantly switching support for one faction or another so none becomes too powerful.

Far-reaching impact

Against this backdrop, the deliberations of the constitutional committee will have a far-reaching impact on Iran's future.

Rafsanjani, the only declared presidential candidate so far, wants to widen the powers of the office and scrap the premiership to eliminate the competing power centres that have paralysed decisions on the economy and social reform.

The hardliners favour a presidency which is largely ceremonial, with power centralised in the prime minister.

The debate is heating up, although the Tehran Times daily noted Monday that Rafsanjani's campaign "seems to be getting

the nod from the majority" of the committee.

All indications are that in the absence of any leader with Khomeini's spiritual authority, there will be a tilt towards installing a collective leadership after he dies.

Rafsanjani, as well as Khomeini's son Ahmad, whose political ambitions are starting to show, will likely be on that leadership council.

If, despite the radicals' strength, Rafsanjani can change the constitution his way and win the presidency, he would be expected to make profound changes in Iran's power structure.

Current President Ali Khamenei, whose second four-year term expires in September, has asserted that concentrating power in the presidency will not lead to a dictatorship and noted: "You can't run a country... if there is too much dispersion of power."

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

S. Arabia gives PLO \$12 million

NICOSIA (R) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia has ordered a payment of just over \$12 million to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to back the uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories, a Palestinian official said. The Saudi Press Agency (SPA), monitored in Nicosia, quoted Rafiq Al Natsheh as saying in Riyadh Tuesday that the money represented the Saudi contribution for April and May. "This brings the total amount received by the PLO since the beginning of 1989 to \$30.1 million," he said.

Sudanese rebels free clergymen

NAIROBI (R) — Sudanese rebels said Wednesday they had freed a Roman Catholic archbishop and three priests held captive since late February. Rebel Sudan Peoples Liberation Army (SPLA) commander Lam Akol said Paride Taban, archbishop of the southern Sudan town of Torit, returned to his home in the morning and was now free to resume his ministry. The SPLA also freed a French priest, Jean-Marie la Vacher, as well as an Irish and Sudanese priest whose names Akol would not disclose. All four had been held in what Akol described as protective custody since the SPLA captured Torit Feb. 26. They were held outside Torit, but Akol would not say where.

Egyptian police arrest activists

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian police arrested four fundamentalist Muslim activists during an election rally in an industrial suburb of Cairo, security sources said Tuesday night. The four men — a doctor, a lawyer, a steel worker and a graduate student — were charged with sedition after handing out leaflets at the rally Monday in the suburb of Helwan in support of the Muslim Brotherhood. The sources said the pamphlets called for the introduction of Islamic laws, demonstrations against economic austerity measures and an end to emergency regulations. About 1,500 fundamentalists have been arrested over the last two months. Most are held under emergency laws, in force since the assassination of President Anwar Sadat in 1981.

Belgians jailed for kidnapping Kuwaiti

NORTHAMPTON, England (R) — Two Belgians were jailed for six years by a British court Tuesday for their part in the kidnapping of a Kuwaiti millionaire who was held for a ransom of \$2.6 million. Danielle Peumans, 42, and Eddie Doucet, 31, snatched Waleed Al Humaidh from a house near Northampton in central England, subdued him with drugs and an electronic stun-gun and chained him to a bed for five days in London, the prosecution said. Peumans' boyfriend, William Schroyens, was said to have masterminded the kidnap after failing to recover \$2.6 million he alleged Humaidh, a 38-year-old businessman, owed him from diamond deals. Peumans, a secretary from Brussels, and Schroyens' brother-in-law Doucet, an Antwerp diamond dealer, admitted kidnapping Humaidh last September, but denied plotting to demand money with menaces. Schroyens, who returned to Belgium while Humaidh was still being held, was expected to appear in court in Belgium for his part in the kidnapping. When police swooped on the London house, they arrested Peumans and found Doucet hiding in a cupboard. Humaidh told police that with the stun gun held to the back of his neck he was ordered to record a message to his family asking for the money to be paid into a bank in Spain. The money was never paid.

Iran hangs 10 more drug smugglers

NICOSIA (AP) — Ten drug traffickers convicted by Islamic courts were publicly hanged in four Iranian cities Tuesday, bringing the number of such hangings in the past 11 days to 104, Tehran Radio reported. The broadcast, monitored in Nicosia, said that "the professional drug smugglers" were hanged in the cities of Zahedan, Kerman, Hamadan and Fardows. Tuesday's hangings raised to 662 the number of drug-related executions that Iranian authorities say they have carried out since they launched a nationwide anti-narcotics crackdown last December.

Iran to merge ministries

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's parliament Tuesday voted to merge two ministries which provide logistical support for the regular army and the Revolutionary Guards. The Iranian news agency IRNA said the bill, which still needs final approval, involved only the ministries and did not cover the forces themselves. The Revolutionary Guards corps grew from a small militia formed to protect the 1979 revolution into a fully-fledged military organisation beside the regular army during the eight-year war against Iraq. The International Institute for Strategic Studies estimates the strength of the guards at more than 250,000 and the regular army at more than 350,000.

Turkey tests new rabies vaccine

ANKARA (R) — Turkey has been chosen to test a rabies vaccine for stray dogs which experts hope will eliminate the killer viral disease in developing countries. "Rabies has always been a problem in Turkey but we hope the new bait vaccine for stray dogs will help to eradicate it," the agriculture ministry's director general, Ersin Istanbulluglu, told Reuters in an interview. If successful, the pellet vaccine distributed on rubbish heaps ravaged by dogs could end the enforced slaughter of thousands of stray animals in Turkish cities every year. The 3½-year trial programme costing about \$55,000 is organised by the World Health Organisation collaborating centre for rabies surveillance and research in West Germany.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

18:00 Korean
18:40 Programme review
19:40 Children programme
20:00 Local programme
20:30 News for the Deaf
21:30 Local programme
21:50 "Alpha"
22:00 Health programme
22:30 Programme review
23:00 News in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 La Baby Sinner
18:30 La Chance Aus Chansons
19:00 News in French
19:15 Tante
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Bill Cosby Show
21:10 Beauty and the Beast
22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature film: "Streets of Justice"

PRAYER TIMES

03:57 Fajr
05:29 (Sunrise) Duha
12:32 Dhuhr
16:13 Asr
19:36 Maghreb
21:06 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Teremanta Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625511
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625433
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772661
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 683326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811255
Bible Church Congregation Tel. 822405
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Another drop in temperatures will occur and winds will be westerly moderate to fresh. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman Max. temp. 14 / 26
Aqaba 20 / 34
Deserts 16 / 29
Jordan Valley 13 / 31

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 28, Aqaba 37, humidity readings: Amman 35 per cent, Aqaba 29 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Youssef Smeirat 821311
Dr. Abdul Aziz Abu Khalaf 663522
Dr. Jamil Al Zir 794149
Dr. Ahmad Al Nattour 653534
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int'l Airport 08-53200
St. Joseph's pharmacy 637660

IRBID:

Dr. Mazen Abu Bakr (—)
Al Shurua pharmacy (985238)

ZARQA:

Dr. Randa Shabin 995710
Khalef pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630341
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 771311
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int'l Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Al-Jalil Maternity, J. Amn. 644201/6
Al-Jalil Maternity, J. Amn. 624410/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 895845
Al-Mustashir Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3
Al-Baskir, J. Ashrafieh 771112/6
Amy, Maria 891611/5
Queen Alia Hospital 622405/0
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983223

Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071
Don Sina Hospital (09)980732
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272775
Don Al Nafces Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

10:10 Aqaba (RJ)
10:10 Damascus (RJ)
10:15 Jeddah (RJ)
10:30 Tripoli (RJ)
10:30 Cairo (RJ)
10:40 Kuwait (RJ)
10:45 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:55 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
11:00 Calcutta (RJ)
17:15 Laraca (RJ)
18:30 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:45 London, Geneva (RJ)
19:20 Athens (RJ)
19:30 Bangkok (RJ)
20:10 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
20:40 Tripoli (RJ)
20:45 Rome (RJ)
01:20 Baghdad (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:15 Dubai (TU)
10:10 Sanaa (LH)
10:20 Muscat, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)
14:30 Kuwait (KU)
15:00 Baghdad (RO)
17:25 Riyadh (SV)
19:00 Amsterdam, Athens (KL)
19:05 Cairo (MS)
19:25 Frankfurt (LH)
20:10 Zurich, Laraca (SR)
01:05 London, Cairo (BA)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:55 Aqaba (RJ)
11:45 Rome (RJ)
12:10 Athens (RJ)
12:30 Tripoli (RJ)
13:10 Laraca (RJ)
13:15 Frankfurt, London (RJ)
14:15 Paris (RJ)
20:40 Kuwait (RJ)
21:00 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
21:10 Baghdad (RJ)
21:30 Jeddah (RJ)
21:15 Vicana, Miami (RJ)
21:20 Cairo (RJ)
21:30 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
22:00 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
22:30 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
23:00 Bangkok (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

10:15 Tunis (TU)
11:10 Frankfurt (LH)
15:30 Bahrain (GF)
15:25 Kuwait (KU)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple 350 / 450
Apricot 1300 / 1000
Banana 350 / 300
Banana (Mukammal) 300 / 250
Beans 320 / 280
Broad beans 180 / 140
Cabbage 70 / 50
Carrots 140 / 100
Cauliflower 150 / 100
Cherry (red) 1500 / 1300
Cherry (green) 800 / 600
Fennel 300 / 250
Cucumbers 140 / 100
Dates 300 / 400
Eggplant 120 / 100
Garlic 270 / 230
Lemon 300 / 400
Lettuce (per bag) 100 / 80
Marrow (large) 80 / 50
Marrow (small) 180 / 140
Orange 400 / 350
Onion (dry) 70 / 50
Onion (green) 100 / 80
Peas 300 / 250
Pepper (hot) 240 / 200
Pepper (sweet) 240 / 200
Potato 230 / 180
Tomatoes 120 / 100
Watermelon 300 / 120



Her Majesty Queen Noor has always shown deep and genuine interest in improving the quality of life of Jordanians everywhere, especially in rural areas. Her Majesty's efforts require the support of all Jordanian people, official and otherwise. Photo

shows Queen Noor Tuesday distributing certificates to Sama Sirhan in the Mafrag Governorate and at the town's social development centre handed certificates to 110 women who received training in sewing, knitting and typing. Jordan Times reporter Najwa Najjar accompanied the Queen and filed the following report:

Dry grounds; every drop helps

On Tuesday Her Majesty Queen Noor visited Sama Sirhan in the Mafrag Governorate and at the town's social development centre handed certificates to 110 women who received training in sewing, knitting and typing. Jordan Times reporter Najwa Najjar accompanied the Queen and filed the following report:

AMMAN — As you drive along the newly completed two-lane highway from Amman to Mafrag, what seems to be an endless desert is suddenly interrupted by clusters of small villages with houses mostly made of mud. Driving through the Governorate of Mafrag, small fields of olive trees become a predominant feature — what director of development in Mafrag, Mahmoud Al Shboul, calls "the development of olives."

Shboul talked to reporters Tuesday, when Her Majesty Queen Noor visited Mafrag's Ministry of Social Development's centre for the graduation of 110 women, 70 graduates in knitting and sewing courses and 40 in typing. According to Shboul the 30,000 olive trees in the area have increased the income of most families in Mafrag and the 11 surrounding villages.

Mafrag's director of health services Dr. Saleem Affash says he noted improvement in living standards in the governorate with the growing of olives and tomatoes. Using JD 400 annual family income as the poverty level in the governorate, Affash says, "not more than 10 per cent" are under this level.

He says that while there were poor families in Mafrag-like in other areas of the country — "this area is considered to be one of the most developed." He believes that unemployment in the region was responsible for poverty and that ways to increase employment opportunities must be explored.

Many of the villagers agreed with Affash on the issue of employment but they disagreed with him on the governorate being one of the most developed areas.

The Governorate of Mafrag is still one of the relatively poorer regions of the Kingdom, the villagers maintain. With a population of approximately 110,000, no industry and hardly any agriculture, most of the male inhabitants join the army.

Amnah Faris, 40, is a farmer. She supports seven children after her husband left her seven years ago. Amineh works in the fields for JD 1½ a day. That is only during harvesting. She is unemployed 10 months a year. "With all my children at school and no money from outside, I wish I could die."

Two other women whose husbands are unemployed have barely been able to make ends meet. They are not eligible for aid from any of the 19 charitable or voluntary societies in the governorate because each of them has a son in the army.

Jameilah Mutlaa is a 24-year-old mother of three. Her husband, 60, is unemployed. Jameilah approached the charitable organisations, but was turned away because her step son from her husband's first wife is in the army.

"My husband's son does not have to give me money and he does not. I can't work because of my children. I have to go around begging so I can feed my children." Her children are aged five, four and one and a half years.

Taleha Aliyan Tafi from the village of Jaber also has a son in the army. While she might sound luckier than Jameilah, in that she receives her son's salary of JD 16, she faces harsher conditions.

Her 10-member family lives in a two-room house without doors, no heating and no bathroom. Her 70-year-old husband is unemployed and sick and three of her daughters are physically handicapped. The plastic legs her daughters once wore, have broken, "and now they just crawl around in the dirt."

The 42-year-old mother cannot afford taking her daughters to hospital. The other children go to school. She feeds her family with tomatoes, squash and bread — the diet of most of the villagers interviewed by the Jordan Times.

Many mothers complained that they could not feed their children milk, nor could they afford meat, chicken, cheese or labneh. Thirty-year-old Sabha Ahmad

Princess Basma visits Maan, Wadi Al Seer

MAAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma visited Maan Governorate Wednesday and inspected a number of charitable and voluntary centres operated by the Jordanian Save the Children Fund (JSCF).

Princess Basma who is president of the fund was briefed on the activities of the various sections which include computer training for children, weaving and knitting and a kindergarten.

Princess Basma later chaired a meeting for the society staff and reviewed the needs of the centre in terms of facilities for training and services in various areas.

The Maan Centre is one of nine JSCF's centres around the Kingdom which are being operated in cooperation with the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF).

These centres hold periodic training courses, seminars and other activities to promote rural development and to encourage the involvement of rural women in activities that would help improve the standard of living of their own families.

Later Princess Basma attended a ceremony for the graduation of 23 female trainees from the dress making workshop at the Wadi Al Seer training centre, run by a local charitable society. It was announced later that the Princess has accepted to be the honorary president of the society. Princess Basma distributed diplomas to the graduates and voiced appreciation for the efforts of those in charge of the vocational training programmes.

First gas-run power station opens today

AMMAN (J.T.) — A power station set up at Al Rishe area where huge reserves of natural gas had been discovered will be inaugurated Thursday as part of the Kingdom's celebrations of Independence Day, according to an official statement by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

For its electric generation, the station will use natural gas from Al Rishe fields estimated to hold 30 billion cubic feet.

According to Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) Director General Al-Mohamed Said Arafah experimental tests on the power station started two months ago and it is estimated that when in full operations, the Rishe power station can supply 15 per cent of the total requirements of electric power in Jordan.

He said that the electricity produced at the Rishe station will feed the national grid.

According to Arafah, the Natural Resources Authority (NRA) which is charged with prospecting for oil and gas in the Rishe area near the Iraqi border has found natural gas in commercial quantities in at least two wells. The NRA and the JEA are coordinating their efforts to exploit the natural gas for power generation, and feasibility studies had been completed in this respect, Arafah noted.

He said that the JEA has installed two power generating units one at Kharraneh where the new radio transmitter station was set up and the other at Al Rishe both of which are fuelled by natural gas from the gas fields at Rishe.

ACC takes to the field

CAIRO (Petra) — Senior officials in charge of youth affairs in Egypt, Jordan, Iraq and North Yemen, the four member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries, will hold a meeting very soon to discuss the establishment of a higher ministerial body to coordinate cooperation in sports and youth affairs in the four countries, Minister of Youth Awad Kheifaf announced in Cairo Wednesday.

The minister was speaking to reporters following a meeting with Egyptian Prime Minister Ataf Sidki with whom he reviewed Jordanian-Egyptian cooperation in youth affairs and the implementation of a bilateral agreement in this respect.

The bilateral agreement, the minister said, was the initial step towards promoting cooperation in youth affairs not only between

Jordan and Egypt, but also with the rest of the ACC countries, Kheifaf noted.

During his current stay in Cairo, Kheifaf met with North Yemen's minister of youth and sports and discussed with him sports and youth affairs, and the Yemeni minister voiced his country's desire to conclude a separate cooperation agreement with Jordan.

Kheifaf toured youth and sports installations and centres in Egyptian cities and was briefed on their activities. He said that Jordan will benefit from Egyptian experience and expertise in youth and sports fields.

Kheifaf said he met with the head of the Kuwaiti sports organisation and head of the Kuwaiti Olympic committee to discuss cooperation with the Jordanian Olympic Committee.

Baghdad, Amman twin

AMMAN (Petra) — The mayors of Baghdad and Amman Khaled Abdul Munem Rashid and Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh Wednesday endorsed a draft agreement for twinning the Jordanian and Iraqi capitals, paving the way for a greater measure of cooperation between the two cities in municipal affairs.

Once formally adopted by the two sides, the document will be finally signed by the two capital's municipal councils, according to a statement issued here following a meeting between the two mayors.

The two mayors discussed exchanges of expertise and visits by officials; and agreed on streamlining regulations that would be of mutual benefit.

Rashid lauded the strong brotherly relations between Jordan and Iraq, and pledged continued efforts to promote cooperation between the two capitals.

Later, Rawabdeh accompanied Rashid and his delegation on a tour of a number of municipality installations and tourist and archaeological sites and places of interest.

German exhibition due

AMMAN (J.T.) — A photo exhibition will be opened on May 27 at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman featuring the "Jordan-German forestry project (GTZ)" — a joint project near Dana village between Tafila and Shobak in southern Jordan.

The exhibition by Sigrid Neubert of Munich has been organised by the Ministry of Agriculture in conjunction with the Goethe Institute and Luftwaffen, and will be held under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor.

The exhibition will remain open until May 31.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CONGRATULATIONS: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, has cabled congratulations to Argentine President Raul Alfonsin on "national day" anniversary. In his cable Prince Hassan wished the Argentinian president good health and the people further progress and prosperity (Petra).

EDUCATION: Education Minister Dr. Abdullah Nsour Wednesday discussed with educational officials in Bag'a basin area matters related to the progress and development of the educational process. He called for the creation of a strong generation capable of confronting challenges and preserving national gains (Petra).

SEMINARS: Six educational seminars on the danger of smoking have been held in a number of Amman secondary schools on the occasion of the world anti-smoking day which falls on May 31. The seminars explained the harmful and dangerous effects of smoking on human body and urged for teaching the future generations and students the principles of healthy life (Petra).

INSPECTION: Civil Defence Department Director Lieutenant-General Khaled Tarawneh Wednesday inspected civil defence centres in Irbid Governorate and familiarised himself with preparations underway to deal with emergency incidents particularly in summer time. Tarawneh also opened a civil defence centre at the Camp of Martyr Azmi Mufti (Petra).

FESTIVAL: The Ministry of Culture and Information will hold a festival Saturday at the Royal Cultural Centre on the occasion of Jordan's Independence Day. A book exhibition will be held on the sidelines of the festival (Petra).



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, honouring volunteer physicians Swee Chai Ang (first table, on left) and Pauline Cutting (right) during a dinner at the Amman Plaza Hotel Tuesday night also attended by Her Highness Princess Sarvath (Petra photo)

Regent honours volunteer doctors

Praise be to the brave and noble

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A dinner was hosted Tuesday evening in honour of two volunteer physicians, Pauline Cutting and Swee Chai Ang, for their medical services offered to Palestinian refugees in Lebanon and the Israeli-occupied territories.

The dinner, which was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath, was hosted as a gesture of Jordan's appreciation of the two doctors' noble efforts, their support for and interest in the Palestine problem, the Jordan News Agency, Petra said.

Cutting, a British citizen, and Ang, a Malaysian in origin, volunteered to work for the British charity Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP) under harsh conditions to save hundreds of victims of Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982 and the subsequent massacres of Palestinians in Sabra and Shatila later that same year. They continued to work for MAP inter-

mittently in Lebanon until 1987. The London-based MAP was originally founded in 1984 to help Palestinians in Lebanon and to improve their health conditions. Its services later expanded to include the Israeli occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. The dinner was a fund-raiser for the benefit of MAP.

Petra noted that the two doctors did not save an effort to expose the Israeli occupation authorities' savage and repressive measures against the Palestinians and their noble intifada in the face of occupation.

In 1988, Cutting published her book, "Children of the Siege," which is an intense account of her work experience in the besieged Bourj Al Barajneh camp during the height of the Lebanese camps war in Lebanon between 1985 and 1986.

An orthopaedic surgeon and a founding member of MAP, Ang led the first volunteer team of medical staff into Lebanon's Palestinian refugee camps. She recently published an account of her experience in a book entitled

"From Beirut to Jerusalem." Ang has just ended a six-month stay in Gaza where she worked as an UNRWA consultant to save victims of Israel's oppressive measures against the intifada.

In a recent interview with the Jordan Times, Ang said that since its establishment five years ago, MAP has sought to raise funds in order to provide Palestinian refugees with medical aid and doctors.

"We respond closely to what the Palestinians themselves are doing," Ang said. "We respond in various ways by sending doctors and equipment... but as a British citizen, we have to be totally apolitical," she added.

In their personal capacity however, both doctors have been very vocal about the suffering of Palestinian people, whom Ang refers to as victims of injustice.

"If I were a Palestinian I would have been killed in 1982," Ang said. "They (the Israelis) would have killed me, but they know I am not a Palestinian. That is the injustice of it all," Ang concluded.

Jordan asks Soviets to balance trade deficit

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Wednesday urged the Soviet Union to open its markets to Jordanian products to balance trade between the two countries which is heavily in favour of the Soviet Union. Jordan's imports of Soviet goods continue to increase annually at a time when Jordan exports nothing to Soviet markets, Ministry of Industry and Trade's Secretary General Mohammad Saqqaf said at a meeting with a visiting team of Soviet experts preparing for economic talks which will be held at a later date in Moscow.

Saqqaf proposed the conclusion of an equitable deal between the two sides and the organisation

of a Jordanian trade fair in Moscow where Jordan can sell goods directly to the public; and the establishment of Jordanian and Soviet trade centres in Moscow and Amman to sell national products according to an agreed quota.

Referring to joint ventures, Saqqaf cited the joint Jordanian-Soviet phosphate project which will produce fertilisers using Jordanian phosphates and the timber project which will be supplied with primary materials from the Soviet Union.

Saqqaf also welcomed Soviet assistance in the implementation of Jordanian development schemes and bilateral cooperation in industrial training.

He said that an exchange of visits by members of the chambers of commerce and industry in Jordan and the Soviet Union will contribute to further cooperation in these fields.

The head of the Soviet team said his country will do its best to reach agreement with Jordan in all those fields.

The Soviet team Tuesday met with members of the Amman Chamber of Commerce and discussed trade issues. The chamber's President Mohammad Asfour underlined the importance of launching joint ventures and opening Soviet markets for Jordanian products.

Ministers, Soviet friendship team discuss tourism, transport

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordanian-Soviet cooperation in tourism was discussed Wednesday at a meeting between Minister of Tourism Yanal Hikmat and the president of the Jordanian-Soviet Friendship Society on the one hand and a visiting team representing the Soviet-Jordanian Society on the other.

Promoting cooperation in tourism and the exchange of expertise in this field in implementation of a 1979 agreement were discussed at the meeting which also touched on bilateral cooperation in economic fields.

Later, the visiting Soviet delegation met with Minister of Culture and Information

Nasouh Al Majali with whom they exchanged views on bolstering bilateral relations and cooperation in cultural fields. Majali praised the society for its endeavours to bolster cultural ties between Jordan and the Soviet Union.

The team which includes officials from the Soviet merchant fleet later met with Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Hikmat Khammash to discuss cooperation in maritime shipping and the prospect of concluding a bilateral agreement in this field.

Services to Soviet ships docking at Aqaba and goods shipped in transit from Jordan to the

Soviet Union were other topics on the agenda.

The minister said that Jordan will study a draft agreement to regulate maritime transport between the two countries.

He said that Jordan will welcome a procedure by which Soviet ships can transport Jordanian phosphate to the Soviet Union after delivering goods at the port of Aqaba. The Soviet team said that Soviet ships will be willing to transport Jordanian goods to Europe, Japan and the Far East and to import phosphate for the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union they said import 2.5 million tonnes of phosphates from various countries of the world.

Keilani, Borner discuss cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Swiss Ambassador to Jordan Harald Borner Wednesday voiced his government's keenness on promoting its ties with Jordan in all fields and to increase its cooperation with the Kingdom in water-related affairs.

The ambassador who made the statement during a meeting with Minister of Water and Irrigation Mohammad Saleh Al Keilani. Keilani and the ambassador reviewed Jordanian projects being implemented with the help of Swiss companies, including the Dead Sea-Ghor Al Safi road. Borner said Switzerland will be ready to help develop the Dead Sea coast and set up a tourist spa resort there.

For his part, the minister briefed the ambassador on water and sewerage and irrigation projects in the Kingdom and explored the possibility of involving Swiss firms in implementing the Al Wahdeh Dam which is being

set up on Yarmouk River across the common border with Syria. He also sounded the views of the ambassador about obtaining Swiss technical assistance especially in vocational training and higher education in a number of specialisations needed by the Ministry of Water and Irrigation for its projects in the Kingdom.

Keilani voiced Jordan's appreciation of Switzerland's help to Jordan specially in water projects.

AACO names Ghandour chairman of 1989 session

TUNIS (Petra) — The Arab Air Carrier Organisation (AACO) has elected Royal Jordanian Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Ali Ghandour to the post of chairman of the upcoming AACO session which will convene in Amman in May 1990.

AACO Secretary General Adli Dajani said that ten Arab airline companies member of the AACO have agreed to establish an Arab company to finance the purchase

and leasing of planes with a capital of \$200 million. He added that representatives of a number of companies will hold a meeting early June to undertake steps necessary to establish this company.

Referring to the decisions adopted by the AACO general assembly, Dajani said that Egypt Air membership to AACO had been restored.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * The May art exhibition at Al Wasiti Art Gallery, Plaza Hotel.
- * A photography exhibition by Adib Atwan at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- * An art exhibition by Diana Shamounki at the Petra Bank Gallery.
- * An archaeological exhibition entitled "The Treasures of Hasma Desert" at the Department of Antiquities Registration Centre.
- * An art exhibition by three North African artists at Abdel Hamed Shoman Foundation.
- * The annual exhibition of the Nazareth School students at the French Cultural Centre.
- * An art exhibition by Ahmad Abu Othman at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- * An exhibition of paintings, educational facilities, computers, scientific laboratories and handicrafts at the Yarmouk University Model School.
- * A photography exhibition entitled "Amman Under King Hussein's Reign" at the North Roman Catholic School, Zarqa.
- * An art exhibition by Jordanian artist Klara Matsechokibian at the Petra Bank Gallery (opens Friday).

THEATRE

- * A children's Arabic play entitled "Tambouri's Shoes" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 10:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m.

EVENING

- * Scandinavian evening with summer hymns and folk songs at the Lutheran Good Shepherd Church, opposite Um Al Summaq municipality — 7:00 p.m.

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RAKAN AL MAJALI

Director General:

DR. RADI AL WAQFI

Editor-in-Chief:

DR. WALEED M. SADI

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation.

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171-6, 670141-4, 684311, 684366

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

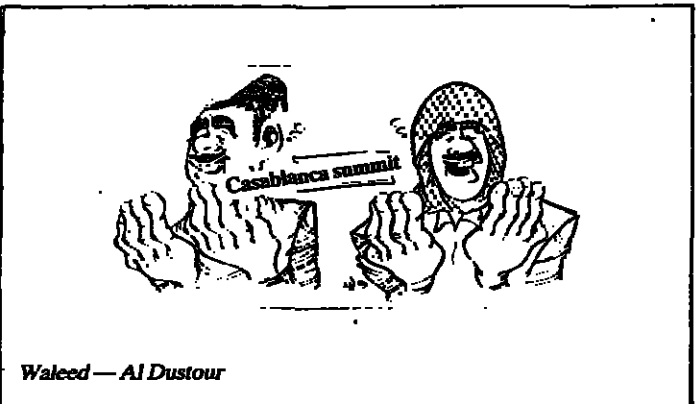
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Burying differences for common cause

THE tete-a-tete meeting between Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi in Casablanca Wednesday can be described as nothing less than historic simply because it was an encounter few in the Arab World would have expected, given the nature of the long-running conflict between Cairo and Tripoli. No doubt, it reflected the mood of reconciliation and realisation of the need for Arab unity that characterised the Arab summit. It raises cautious hopes among the Arabs that their leaders gathered in the Moroccan city are moving forward with a sense of purpose and seriousness. At the same time, there is little that warrants overt Arab jubilation since there is no definite commitment from either leader that their talks signalled a long-term rapprochement. But, the very fact that they could sit down and discuss things is a most welcome sign that the ice has been broken between the two leaders.

By the same token, let us also not overlook that the task that confronts the Casablanca summit is no way easy; issues may be few but implications are too many. But, the Egyptian-Libyan mini-summit, which followed an era of on-again-off-again peace offerings from both sides in over 12 years, was indeed an excellent omen and should serve as a clear message to the rest of the Arab World. Does anyone in the Arab World or outside needs any reminder that the hitherto poised political hatchet between Libya and Egypt was so sharp and touched the basic fibre of the common Arab identity of the two countries that other inter-Arab differences looked almost blunted? Quiet simply, if Mubarak and Qadhafi could bury their differences for the sake of the much-needed united voice that the Arab World needs to address the international community at this crucial point in time, then it is only reasonable to see it incumbent upon any other Arab leader nursing differences with another to seek out common ground and follow the example of the Egyptian and Libyan leaders.

Dialogue is the key to settle differences and bury hatchets and rivalries to accommodate each other. It is a concept accepted and entertained by the Arabs throughout history. We hope the Casablanca summit will honour this traditional Arab commitment and thus enable the Arab leaders to arrive at unanimous decisions and actions that serve the cause of peace in the Middle East and welfare and security of their people.



JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Jordanian dailies on Wednesday continued their discussion of the Casablanca summit meeting, hailing it as a new opportunity for the Arab leaders to fulfill the aspirations of their peoples. Al Ra'i daily said that the meeting in Casablanca is attracting the attention of non Arab countries as well, citing messages sent to King Hassan by the Soviet leader and the American president. The paper said that the summit is considered as an international event since pan-Arab solidarity and joint Arab actions will no doubt have their real weight in international politics. The Arab heads of state do not only have to mend their fences and discuss issues of concern to the Arab World at large, but they ought rather to take steps that can help bring about peace in the Middle East and gain more world support for the Palestinian cause, said the paper. The Arab masses, the paper, added, expect from their leaders to take action not just to take decisions and to undertake meaningful steps to implement decisions at all necessary levels.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily dwells on the summit which he says is busy itself with peace in the Middle East, peace in Lebanon and peace in the Gulf region. Mahmoud Rimawi says that with the participation of Egypt in the summit, the Arabs should feel stronger than ever before, and ought to take a more solid stand vis-a-vis the three issues. They could call on Iran in one voice to respond favourably to the call of a just and lasting peace, and to help bring about stability in the Gulf region, the writer notes. Iraq which came out victorious from the eight year war, ought to be given all-out support in its stand and its continued struggle to achieve a lasting peace. The Arab masses, the writer says, expect the leaders to take practical steps to help settle the Arab-Israeli conflict and to bring about peace and reconciliation to war-torn Lebanon. He says that the Arab people look with greater hope towards the future, now that all the Arabs are meeting under the umbrella of the Arab League.

Al Dstour daily said that all indications point to the fact that the Casablanca summit is bound to achieve great success in view of the participation of all Arab states except for Lebanon which is involved in a civil strife. The paper said that the meeting in Casablanca is indeed a major world event since its results will have a great bearing on the future whether in the Middle East or in the Gulf region. The paper said that the Arabs have a real interest to end their differences and forge ahead with greater determination towards peace and stability. It said that the cohesion among the four-member Arab Cooperation Council and the reconciliation among Arab leaders at the summit should pave the way for a successful end.

By Bassam Abu Sharif

THE Palestine Liberation Organisation stands firmly for democracy and freedom. This is why it supports the holding of elections in the West Bank and Gaza to choose representatives freely and democratically.

Elections — the opportunity to choose their own representatives — would spark enthusiasm among the Palestinian people. But Palestinians are in favour of a truly democratic choice, not a sham democracy.

The only genuine form of democracy is that practised freely without restrictions, threats or any form of intimidation. That is not possible on the West Bank or in Gaza today, where any gathering, even of only five people, is broken up with bullets. Nor is it possible while Palestinians who try to practise their right to freedom of expression are liable to prosecution. Under the rules of occupation, enforced by the Israeli army, it is illegal for Palestinians to engage in political activity or even express their national feelings and beliefs.

Another condition for free democratic choice is a set of rules which safeguard those elected as well as the results of this choice. History shows tragic examples of the eradication of the results of democratic elections in the wake of army intervention. Panama is

the most recent case that comes to mind. The Panama army brutally annihilated democracy and election results.

In occupied Palestine, the events were even more tragic. In 1976, the PLO agreed to elections for the West Bank municipal councils. Of the 116 candidates the Palestinians elected, 96 were PLO supporters. Israelis tried to assassinate three mayors: Bassam Shaka'a, Karim Khalaf and Ibrahim Attawil.

Shaka'a's legs were amputated after Israeli occupiers planted a bomb in his car. Khalaf lost his foot when a bomb exploded in the car he was driving. He later died of gangrene. Attawil escaped death when he discovered an explosive device in his car.

Two other mayors, Mohammad Milhem and Fahd Kawasmeb, were deported to Jordan. Israeli occupation forces then removed most of the elected mayors, including all the PLO supporters elected by the people.

Now the situation is even more dangerous. Israeli soldiers have been deployed in the streets of cities in the West Bank and Gaza for 18 months using live ammunition against men, women and children demanding freedom and democracy.

These events demonstrate that unless a neutral force is present, the Israeli army will repeat the same behaviour. This conclusion

is supported by the words of Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister, and Yitzhak Rabin, the defence minister.

Rabin told the daily Ha'aretz on April 21: "We will remove any elected Palestinian who declares loyalty or affiliation to the PLO." Shamir informed Yediot Aharonot, Israel's leading daily newspaper: "We don't need America's help to carry out the elections. We can control the whole process. We will not talk to the PLO. We have nothing to talk about with the PLO. And if the elected Palestinians will not abide by the rules of the game, we will cancel everything and return to the previous situation." Such statements have been repeated by Shamir and his cabinet colleagues.

Shamir is not denying Palestinians their right to free choice and democracy; he is just announcing that if they make the wrong choice it will not be respected.

The intifada has shown that the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza are not "pro-PLO"; they are the PLO. This has been demonstrated as well to Dennis Ross, the envoy of the American secretary of state, James Baker, by the group of Palestinians who met him in Jerusalem. This is why the PLO is not afraid of the results of free and democratic elections. This is why the Israelis are afraid of those same results.

What Shamir is proposing clearly contradicts not only the principles of democracy and freedom upheld by the free world, but also with the democratic principles of Israel itself.

A package deal in the Middle East is the only path to a global settlement and a global peace in the region. The Palestinians seek a settlement that will put an end to bloodshed in the Middle East. They seek a comprehensive peace, not a truce. They are seriously committed to this goal while Shamir and his government still cling to the same old expansionist dreams. The Israeli proposal for elections in the West Bank and Gaza is a trick aimed at ending the intifada and at legitimising Israeli occupation there.

President Bush asked the PLO and Israel to reach a mutually acceptable formula on the issue of elections. This is important if we wish to keep the peace process moving forward in the Middle East. But the crucial point is this: President Bush emphasised that Israeli occupation of Gaza and the West Bank must come to an end.

Herein lies the key issue. It is only on this basis that steps toward peace will be negotiable, and only on this basis can the final status of the West Bank and Gaza be clarified. The end of Israeli occupation is what the

Palestinians are struggling for. Israeli withdrawal from these areas should be required by the rules of civilised society.

The Palestinians do not trust Shamir and his government. The casualties and sufferings inflicted on them by the Israeli occupation forces give them excellent reasons not to. But the Palestinians are ready to give the Israeli government the benefit of the doubt and to seek a package deal in the Middle East based on the principles of the initiative put forward by President Yasser Arafat before the U.N. General Assembly on Dec. 13, 1988.

The substance of this package is the two-state solution. The state of Israel will live in peace side-by-side with the state of Palestine, which will be confederated with Jordan. An internationally guaranteed peace agreement will protect the interests of all parties concerned, including the Palestinians and the Israelis.

The process should comprise four inter-related steps:

• Beginning of the withdrawal of Israeli forces and their replacement by international or multinational forces, according to an internationally assured timetable.

armed settlers should not be in any position to hinder or endanger voters. The elections should be monitored and observed internationally to guarantee freedom of choice and protection of those elected.

• An interim period under international or multinational auspices. During this transitional period, the Palestinian legislative body will elect an executive. That executive body will select a team to negotiate with Israel. The negotiations can begin on internal issues but must consider matters of substance that concern a comprehensive settlement such as borders and water.

• Preparations should begin for the convocation of an active, well-constructed international conference that will be convened on the basis of United Nations Resolutions 242 and 338 and the Palestinians' right to self-determination. The international peace conference should be convened within an internationally assured period of time that takes into consideration the deplorable and painful conditions being endured by the Palestinians on the West Bank and Gaza. All parties concerned in the Middle East conflict can raise any question to be discussed or negotiated.

The PLO wants a comprehensive peace that will safeguard the future of the coming generations, both Palestinian and Israeli — The Times, London.

Papandreou fights for political life in June

By Patrick Quinn
The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Premier Andreas Papandreou, swept into power eight years ago promising radical change, is battling for his political survival.

As he prepares for elections June 18, the 70-year-old leader is beset by allegations of widespread corruption among senior members of his ruling Panhellenic Socialist Movement (Pasok) and accusations that he failed to implement many of the reforms he espoused when first elected in 1981.

But friends and foes alike say Papandreou is far from beaten, still retaining the oratorical flair and personal appeal that gave him 48 per cent of the popular vote in 1981 and 46 per cent in 1985.

Papandreou, a former U.S. citizen who has accused the United States of trying to undermine his political career, is banking on support from Greece's rural areas to give him the boost he needs to make up lost ground. His socialist policies have had more success in the countryside than in the cities.

"Socialism, democracy, patriotism, peace; these were the goals of the popular movement in our country," Papandreou told thousands of supporters at a recent rally in the working-class suburb of Peristeri.

But opposition parties claim Papandreou has ignored many of the accusations against him and tried instead to polarise the electorate.

To attract support from leftist voters, he has promised to submit any agreement on the future of four U.S. military bases here to a national referendum. Negotiations on the bases have been postponed until after next month's elections.

"He wants to keep the people who are leaving his ranks, people who are progressive and left-wing as well as leftist voters," said Harilaos Florakis, leader of the Soviet-Oriented Greek Communist Party.

Florakis has joined forces with the Eurocommunist Greek left to form the left coalition, which they hope will draw enough disaffected Socialists to play an important role in the balloting.

Both parties lost much of their traditional support when Pasok first came to power espousing a heady mixture of Socialist reform and rabid anti-Americanism.

But economic problems and a see-sawing foreign policy have eroded popular support for the Socialists.

Greece's response to international terrorism also has angered some of the country's NATO allies. Last December, the government freed and put on a plane to Libya a Palestinian allegedly wanted by Italy for a 1982 bomb attack against Rome's main synagogue that killed a child. There also have been repeated delays in extraditing another suspected "terrorist" to the United States.

Allegations of involvement in a multimillion-dollar scandal surrounding fugitive Greek banker George Koskotas and a controversial affair with a woman half his age have tested the premier's appeal.

Newspapers have jumped on the affair with Dimitra Liani, 35. Nude pictures of the former air-

line hostess regularly appear on tabloid front pages.

"I knew this would have a cost. But it was not a passing thing, it was a relationship, it was a way of life," he recently told a Greek newspaper in a rare interview.

Koskotas fled in November after being indicted in a \$200-million fraud, forgery and embezzlement scandal.

The chairman of the Bank of Crete, arrested in the United States and jailed pending an extradition hearing, has alleged that Papandreou and other senior Socialist officials were given millions of dollars in payoffs and authorised the looting of his bank.

Papandreou, in turn, has accused the CIA and the "American establishment" of trying to orchestrate his political demise. Papandreou was a U.S. citizen for 20 years and taught economics at American universities.

The main conservative opposition New Democracy Party, led by longtime Papandreou rival Constantine Mitsotakis, has been hammering away at the government's handling of the Koskotas scandal since it first surfaced more than eight months ago. Two leftist Greek terrorist organisations have called on voters to boycott the elections or cast invalid ballots to protest the scandal.

Although New Democracy leads Pasok by about 7 percentage points in recent public opinion polls and is favoured to win a majority in the 300-member, single-chamber parliament, political analysts feel Mitsotakis' lack of charisma may help Pasok in the elections.

It stems from Mitsotakis' failure to beat Papandreou in the 1985 elections and his alleged involvement in a series of political intrigues in the mid-1960s that Socialists claim paved the way for

the 1967-74 military dictatorship.

Greece's external debt reached nearly \$18 billion and inflation was running at 14 per cent at the end of 1988, triple the European Common Market average.

But while Papandreou's generous allowances to farmers and the construction of hospitals in remote provinces strained the treasury, they are expected to help the Socialists.

"We are going into these elections with two Greeces. The Greece of the provinces and the Greece of the large urban areas," respected Athens columnist Panos Loukakos wrote recently. "The government's failure to deliver on a promise to modernise the health and education systems could hurt Papandreou in Athens, home to nearly half of Greece's 10 million residents."

Papandreou's handling of foreign affairs has been laced with a pragmatic streak that has embittered some allies but not completely alienated them.

He has not carried out campaign pledges calling for the removal of U.S. bases from Greece, along with withdrawal from NATO and the EEC. In 1983, Papandreou signed a five-year accord to keep four U.S. military installations here.

The only sticking point in the current 17-month-old bases talks is Greece's insistence that Washington provide assurances that it will help Greece solve some of its longstanding disputes with NATO ally Turkey. They have been at odds over military and airspace control of the Aegean Sea, its seabed mineral rights and the divided eastern Mediterranean island of Cyprus.

Papandreou said in the recent interview that Greece must remain in NATO and the EEC "because it is in the interests of our nation." He said NATO serves to keep neighbouring Turkey at bay.

War of nerves in Romania

By Colin McIntyre
Reuters

BUCHAREST — An increasingly rough war of nerves is being waged in Romania.

It pits Western diplomats and politicians seeking to bolster human rights by contacting dissidents against local security forces determined to stop them.

The undeclared war began earlier this year when Western countries, particularly the 12 European Community members plus the United States and Canada, decided to take the offensive after Bucharest ignored repeated pleas to respect human rights.

A Belgian politician was beaten up, a Western ambassador was manhandled, another diplomat was ordered into a police car and others have been turned away as they tried to deliver messages or make contact with prominent Romanian dissidents.

"The situation is pretty tense," one senior Western diplomat in Bucharest told Reuters during a recent visit. "But the worrying thing is it could get worse."

Romania's autocratic leader Nicolae Ceausescu cut any remaining financial dependence on the West by announcing last month the country had repaid all its foreign debts.

Now there is concern that Ceausescu may feel he can crack down even harder on the country's small dissident community. "He has already shown what he thinks of Western pressure by his latest crackdown," one Western diplomat said. "After paying off the debts he may be saying 'you can't touch me now'."

The swift repayment of Romania's \$11 billion debt, by throttling imports and exporting everything including food meant for its own population, was widely seen as a political rather than economic decision by a leadership "obsessed with independence," as one diplomat put it.

Last year Romania gave up its most favoured nation status in the United States, worth some \$250 million a year in trade and other

benefits, after Washington linked its continuation to human rights improvements.

Criticism of Romania abroad began mounting last year after Ceausescu announced that thousands of villages were scheduled to disappear under a rural reorganisation scheme calling for the creation of new agri-industrial centres.

In January Romania joined 34 countries in adopting a package of human rights commitments at the conference on security and cooperation in Europe (CSCE) in Vienna, though it immediately declared it would not feel bound to implement all its provisions.

In March, a resolution in the U.N. Human Rights Commission in Geneva called for an observer to be sent to Romania to investigate the human rights situation.

Romania's Warsaw Pact ally Hungary supported the proposal, which was rejected by Romania.

Budapest has charged that Bucharest's rural reorganisation policy is aimed at forcibly assimilating its two million-strong ethnic Hungarian minority. According to Western diplomats in Bucharest, the increasing criticism of Romania abroad may have provided encouragement for a series of open attacks on the leadership from inside the country.

In March alone, six former senior Communist officials, two well-known poets and leading dissident Doina Cornea criticised the leadership either in open letters or interviews with Western media.

The six, including former foreign minister Corneliu Manescu and former Washington and U.N. ambassador Silviu Brucan, were immediately put under a form of house arrest. Some of them have recently been taken from their homes and moved to other parts of the city or to villages outside, Western diplomats said.

"The government has been careful not to make martyrs out of them by putting them in jail," one senior Western diplomat said. "But they are clearly deter-

mined to teach them a lesson." Poet Dan Desliu is being guarded by plainclothes police after describing Romania in an open letter in March as the country of the "multilaterally developed absurd."

Fellow-poet Mircea Dinescu was expelled from the Communist Party and stripped of his job on the editorial board of a leading literary journal when he gave an interview to a French paper hailing Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's reform that have been rejected by Ceausescu.

After West Germany's ambassador Klaus Terloff was stopped from seeing Manescu last month by uniformed and plain-clothes police, the envoy was recalled to Bonn for consultations in protest.

British Ambassador Hugh Arbuthnot was manhandled by police when he tried to see Cornea, who sent two open letters to Ceausescu attacking his policies, in her home town, Cluj.

A U.S. envoy was stopped from contacting Constantin Pirvulescu, one of six former party officials who signed an open letter to Ceausescu, and at one point was ordered into a police car despite his protestations of diplomatic immunity.

Another Western diplomat who tried to visit Cornea was followed everywhere by a man with a video camera. "When I went up to him and asked him what he was doing, he just pointed the camera directly at my face, without a word. It was quite frightening," the diplomat said.

In the most recent incident, Belgian politician Gerard Deprez said he and an aide were beaten up by security forces earlier this month as they tried to visit Cornea in Cluj.

The most worrying incident for many diplomats was what they said was an attack on the wife of the West German consul last month in broad daylight by a uniformed policeman, who knocked her to the ground and kicked her while she was lying there.

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SEPT / SEPT

Ça n'est pas trop cher et ça peut rapporter gros

L'irrésistible attrait de la loterie

Au rythme de deux tirages par mois, pour une cagnotte de 25 000 dinars la loterie jordanienne a peu à peu conquis son droit de cité.

Bien que depuis 26 ans ses bénéfices alimentent les caisses des associations de bienfaisance, les religieux lui reprochent toujours d'encourager "l'argent facile".

La vie de balayeur immigré ne sera bientôt plus qu'un souvenir pour Ahmed Sa'doui. Tout comme la Jordanie, où il travaille depuis six ans. Sans trop y croire, il avait commencé, l'année dernière, à investir régulièrement un dinar dans un demi-billet de loterie. La chance lui a souri à l'occasion du tirage du 17 mai. A 27 ans, il se retrouve à la tête d'une coquette fortune de 12 500 dinars. Soit le montant de la demi-cagnotte. Ses gains en poche, il a aussitôt pris son billet d'avion pour rentrer en Egypte.

En attendant, il achète des cadeaux pour sa mère et ses deux frères qu'il n'a pas revus depuis son départ. "Cet argent servira d'abord à mon mariage, affirme-t-il en souriant. S'il m'en reste, j'ouvrirai un petit commerce dans mon village natal".

Véritable conte de fée, l'histoire d'Ahmed Sa'doui a de quoi faire rêver les adeptes du "jeu" d'argent autorisé en Jordanie. Depuis neuf ans, Jaid tente lui aussi de décrocher le gros lot "pour partir aux Etats-Unis", déclare-t-il. Si la plupart des joueurs dépensent rarement plus de deux dinars par tirage (tous les 2 et 17 de chaque mois), l'espoir de faire fortune devient parfois onéreux. Mashour Kassem se désole ainsi d'une centaine de dinars par mois. "Ça représente



Les quelque 80 000 billets de la loterie trouvent facilement acheteurs, qui rêvent d'empocher un jour la cagnotte, à l'instar d'Ahmed Sa'doui (à droite), ex-balayeur et nouveau riche.

environ les deux tiers de mon salaire", avoue-t-il. Passionné ou raisonnable, l'engagement pour les cinq chiffres de la chance assure en tout cas le succès financier de la loterie nationale, depuis sa création en février 1973. "La vente de billets progresse régulièrement, souligne son directeur, Souheil Al-Hadid. Le phénomène s'est même amplifié ces sept dernières années". La crise économique aidant. "Pour chaque tirage, nous fabriquons entre 80 000 et 100 000 billets, poursuit-il. Il nous en reste rarement plus de 10% sur les bras".

En 1988, les Jordaniens ont ainsi déboursé plus de quatre millions de dinars, assurant à la



loterie un bénéfice net d'un million et demi, une fois payés ses deux cents salariés et réglés les frais d'imprimerie. A la différence de la loterie française, l'argent ne rentre pas dans les caisses de l'Etat. "Il est aussitôt distribué aux différentes organisations de bienfaisance (UGSB), dont nous faisons partie", précise Souheil Al-Hadid. Organisme indépendant, l'UGSB gère l'assistance financière aux handicapés, aux orphelins et aux nécessiteux dans l'ensemble du royaume.

L'objectif social de la loterie lui permet tant bien que mal de concilier jeu et morale. "Les gens savent que nous sommes au service des pauvres et que nous ne



Les quelque 80 000 billets de la loterie trouvent facilement acheteurs, qui rêvent d'empocher un jour la cagnotte, à l'instar d'Ahmed Sa'doui (à droite), ex-balayeur et nouveau riche.

cherchons pas à faire de profits", soutient son directeur. En témoignage selon lui le tirage spécial, en mars 1988, en faveur de l'Intifada. Malgré le prix élevé de 5 dinars, les billets sont partis comme des petits pains. "Nous avons pu envoyer 100 000 dinars aux associations de l'UGSB dans les territoires occupés. Malgré la rupture des relations administratives avec la Cisjordanie, nous continuons à leur réserver une partie des bénéfices, qui attendent sur un compte en banque", explique Souheil Al-Hadid.

Mieux vaut la clarté Si les Jordaniens affectionnent de plus en plus leur loterie, cette

dernière fait l'objet de nombreuses critiques pour son "incompatibilité" avec les principes de l'Islam. Principes qui se traduisent notamment par une chute sensible des ventes de billets pendant le mois de Ramadan. "L'argent facile est synonyme de tentation satanique, explique Fouad J. Al-Kayed, du ministère des Affaires religieuses. Les mufis tentent d'expliquer pacifiquement aux gens que le jeu est contraire à la foi. Mais, ajoute-t-il, mieux vaut un jeu clairement autorisé que des paris clandestins comme ça se produit dans certains pays islamiques".

Soucieuse de se débarrasser de toute connotation immorale, la loterie nationale refuse de considérer son activité comme un "jeu". "Les gens achètent un billet, autant pour soutenir les pauvres que pour gagner, soutient son directeur. Nous offrons également du travail à plus de cinq cents revendeurs". L'UGSB ne s'occupe en effet que de l'impression des billets, qu'elle confie chaque année à l'imprimerie qui lui offre les prix les plus modestes. Les coupons sont ensuite mis en vente au siège de la loterie, par séries d'au moins mille coupons, au prix unitaire de 1, 60 dinars.

Intermédiaires rusés "Quiconque possède la nationalité jordanienne peut venir les acheter puis les proposer au public pour 2 dinars", explique Souheil Al-Hadid. Rares sont cependant les candidats capables de déboursier au moins 1 600 dinars cash, comme l'exige la loi. Le développement de la loterie, particulièrement à Amman qui compte plus de 85% des fans du

ticket du bonheur, a donc donné naissance à de véritables "agences". Intermédiaires rusés, qui cèdent ensuite leurs stocks au prix de 1, 65 ou 1,70 dinars le billet.

Avec 18 000 à 25 000 billets par tirage, Johnny Massieh et son compère Samieh Yassin se sont taillés la part du lion dans cette activité lucrative. Du fond de leur cordonnerie, ils "emploient" 120 revendeurs, plour la plupart Egyptiens. "Nous fournissons aussi les rares agences de Zarqa, Aqaba ou Mafrak, explique Samieh. Mais nous ne gagnons pas toujours beaucoup d'argent, prétend-il, surtout quand la police opère des rafles parmi les clandestins". Plus modeste, Saoud Ma'di se contente de redistribuer 2 500 coupons aux 17 revendeurs qui travaillent régulièrement pour lui. "Ils ont tous obtenu un permis de travail", assure-t-il, tout en reconnaissant que sa "profession" suffit amplement à nourrir ses neuf enfants.

Les immigrés, quant à eux, se bousculent au portillon, principalement dans la ville basse. Se satisfaisant de 300 fils sur chaque billet, ils arpentent la capitale pour liquider leurs carnets. Au point de rendre la concurrence difficile. "Autrefois, je m'installais à un endroit précis, se souvient Maher Baroud, paralysé des deux jambes. Aujourd'hui, je dois partir à la recherche des acheteurs". Une course qui fait le bonheur de la loterie, et particulièrement des agences. Ces dernières craignent cependant que leur réussite donne au fisc l'envie de mettre son nez dans leurs affaires.

Majeda Marouf et Alain Renon.

L'archéologie jordanienne à Lyon

Mises au point

La 4ème conférence internationale d'histoire et d'archéologie de la Jordanie s'ouvre mardi prochain à Lyon, en France. Pendant six jours, 130 scientifiques de tous horizons feront le point sur leurs recherches. Le prince Hassan, promoteur de cette manifestation, se rendra dans l'ancienne capitale des Gaules pour l'inauguration.

"L'organisation de l'espace, de la préhistoire à nos jours", tel est le thème autour duquel s'articuleront les communications des quelque 130 participants à la 4ème conférence d'histoire et d'archéologie de la Jordanie. Du 30 mai au 4 juin, six jours d'exposés et débats ne seront pas de trop pour décrire l'évolution et les modifications des zones de peuplement dans la région durant plusieurs milliers d'années.

"C'est une des originalités de cette 4ème édition que de couvrir une période allant de la préhistoire à l'époque moderne", précise Jacques Seigne, architecte français responsable de la mission permanente de Jérash sous la responsabilité de l'Institut français d'archéologie au Proche-Orient (IFAPO). Les intervenants hexagonaux connaissent bien la période puisqu'ils sont presque les seuls en Jordanie à remonter si loin dans le temps. Parmi les 130 conférenciers, 66 dont 17 jordanien-présentent les résultats de leurs travaux au cours de communications longues.

Organisée à Lyon, la conférence n'en est pas moins internationale. Elle réunit, outre les Jordaniens et les Français, des chercheurs britanniques, américains, ouest-allemands, suisses, australiens, espagnols... Presque tous ont travaillé ou travaillent encore sur des sites jordanien et apporteront l'éclairage de leur spécialité. On trouvera ainsi aux côtés des archéologues et des historiens, des architectes, des ethnologues, des anthropologues...

"Cette conférence comporte un double avantage, explique

Jacques Seigne, la préparation des communications est l'occasion de faire une synthèse de nos travaux et de formuler de nouvelles hypothèses que l'on peut confronter à celles de nos confrères des différentes disciplines". Cette année, l'organisation de la conférence prend plus en compte le rôle des débats. Les trois premières éditions alternaient exposés et commentaires à un rythme très rapide. A Lyon, la conférence s'organisera en 12 sessions correspondant aux 12 époques abordées et chacune sera suivie d'un débat d'une heure permettant aux participants de développer de véritables discussions. "C'est important pour nous de comparer nos résultats et de montrer le poids de notre travail, même s'il n'est pas toujours visible", commente Jacques Seigne.

Si la conférence s'adresse d'abord aux spécialistes, elle a aussi pour vocation de promouvoir l'archéologie auprès du grand public. "Lorsque le prince Hassan a créé la première conférence en 1980, son idée était de vulgariser l'archéologie et l'histoire du pays, rendus souvent rébarbatives par leurs aspects techniques. Il voulait que les gens comprennent ce qui se passe autour d'eux", raconte Ghazi Bishet, directeur du département des antiquités jordanien et qui sera lui aussi présent à Lyon. De fait, les communications du congrès seront relayées par des publications et des articles de presse.

"Depuis la première conférence en 1980 à Oxford, et grâce à celles d'Amman en 1983 puis de Tübingen (RFA) en 1986, la Jordanie est mieux connue des archéologues et historiens", poursuit Ghazi Bishet. Pour preuve: le nombre des fouilles en Jordanie a doublé en 9 ans, passant d'une quinzaine à trente. "Nous ne sommes que les gardiens, et non les propriétaires exclusifs, du patrimoine jordanien, ajoute-t-il. Ces conférences le démontrent".

F.M.

Concert

Opéra et cabaret

De la Bohème de Puccini à West side story, en passant par les Noces de Figue, Carmen, Cabaret... Rosana Schutte enchainera samedi soir ses airs d'opéra et de music-hall. Un concert à l'image de la carrière multiforme de la jeune cantatrice américaine.

Sur les planches depuis l'âge de six ans, Rosana Schutte a d'abord fait du théâtre, de la danse et du music-hall. Une profession qui l'a menée en tournée jusqu'en Afghanistan et en Indonésie, où elle a notamment interprété West side story. Mais sa véritable passion est l'opéra. "J'ai débuté il y a huit ans", explique-t-elle. Elève de Kathryn Grayson et Derek Graydon à Los Angeles, elle séjourne actuellement à Amman, où résident ses parents. "J'attends de pouvoir me rendre en Australie pour suivre les cours de la cantatrice Rita Hunter", précise Rosana Schutte.

"Dévorée" par le désir de chanter, elle est parvenue à organiser ce concert avec le concours du Conservatoire de musique d'Amman. "C'est la première fois que je me produis devant un public arabe, et seule sur scène", avoue-t-elle. Rosana Schutte interprétera dix airs d'opéra au cours de la première partie de cette soirée. Après l'entracte, place au music-hall... Elle sera accompagnée au piano par Joseph Villaggio, qui donna un récital en octobre 1986 dans la capitale jordanienne.

Rosana Schutte, Centre culturel royal, samedi 27 mai à 20h00. La cantatrice américaine animera également un atelier de chant du 28 mai au 7 juin à Amman. Les cours d'initiation ou de perfectionnement se dérouleront deux fois par semaine. Inscriptions et renseignements jusqu'à ce soir au Conservatoire national. Tél: 687 620.

Semaine francophone à Dakar

"Consolidation"

Quarante-quatre pays d'Afrique, d'Europe, d'Asie, d'Océanie, d'Amérique et des Caraïbes ayant en commun l'usage du français, participent depuis lundi à Dakar au troisième sommet de la francophonie. A l'ordre du jour de la réunion des chefs d'Etat et de gouvernement, qui doit s'achever demain soir: l'environnement, l'économie, l'éducation...

Lancé à Paris en février 1986, le mouvement francophone se porte bien. Selon le gouvernement français, le sommet de Dakar devrait d'ailleurs en apporter la preuve en faisant le bilan des projets adoptés il y a plus d'un an et demi lors de la conférence de Québec. 80% d'entre eux sont mis en oeuvre ou en passe de l'être. Présenté par Paris comme le sommet de la "consolidation", la conférence de Dakar doit également armer les perspectives de la coopération multilatérale francophone. Les pays membres se sont donc fixé un programme chargé.

L'environnement y figure en bonne place. Le texte signé à la Haye en mars dernier par 24 chefs d'Etat devait être soumis à l'approbation des pays présents à Dakar. Les Etats africains sont notamment préoccupés par les menaces qui pèsent sur les zones humides de la côte atlantique du

fait des grands travaux, de la désertification, du stockage des déchets toxiques et de la pollution des eaux.

La situation économique, et notamment la dette des pays en développement, qui a atteint cette année environ 7 800 milliards de francs, seront également au centre des préoccupations du sommet. Sans que ce dernier se transforme en forum sur la dette, le Canada et la France, membres du groupe des sept pays industrialisés, pourront recueillir les doléances des pays du sud pour s'en faire l'écho auprès de leurs partenaires du nord au sommet des sept, en juillet, à Paris.

Les chefs d'Etat et de gouvernement présents à Dakar évoqueront également les problèmes liés à l'énergie, la culture, la communication et l'éducation. Ce dernier point étant jugé prioritaire par le président sénégalais, M. Abdou Diouf. L'Egypte, quant à elle, présentera le projet de création d'une université internationale de langue française à Alexandrie, destinée à renforcer la coopération entre les mondes arabe et africain.

Les dépenses engagées pour ce troisième sommet atteignent 85 millions de francs, dont 60 sont alloués par la France et 25 par le Canada. (D'après agences).

Exposition

Souvenirs, souvenirs



Un dernier regard. Chargé de l'image graphique au centre culturel français depuis septembre 1987, Olivier Mutillod s'apprête à quitter la Jordanie. Un départ qui sera précédé d'une exposition que lui consacre le CCF à partir de samedi. "L'idée de départ consistait dans une simple rétrospective des soixante à soixante-dix affiches que j'ai créées pour le centre depuis mon arrivée, explique-t-il. Une vingtaine d'entre elles seront effectivement présentées". Mais là ne s'arrête pas le contenu de l'expo. Professeur d'art appliqués, diplômé de l'Ecole normale supérieure de Cachan près de Paris, Olivier Mutillod a décidé d'y introduire un récit en quatre tableaux. "Il s'agit de quatre toiles de maîtres dont j'ai fait autant de décors dans lesquels les visiteurs pourront entrer", précise-t-il. En clair, Olivier les a "librement" reproduits sur d'immenses panneaux en carton, de quatre mètres de large sur plus de deux mètres de haut. Son astuce: avoir rendu les têtes des personnages amovibles, "pour que les gens puissent y glisser la leur et faire partie intégrante de la scène". De fait, il vous sera permis, pendant quelques minutes, de devenir "La Liberté guidant le peuple" (d'après Delacroix), ou si le coeur vous en dit de prendre la place d'une jeune femme en tenue d'Eve dans le "Déjeuner sur l'herbe" de Manet ou encore de vos faire prêter ou artiste dans deux oeuvres de Courbet, "L'enterrement à Ornans" et le célèbre "Atelier du peintre". "J'ai souhaité glisser dans ces tableaux à la fois une forme d'irrévérence à la vraie peinture et offrir au visiteur l'occasion de participer activement à l'exposition", conclut-il.

A.R.

Mots croisés

Par Florence Mouton

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1										
2										
3										
4										
5										
6										
7										
8										
9										
10										

Horizontalement. 1: jeux. 2: dieu de la musique; il a fait brûler Rome. 3: capturées; fin de messe. 4: ville flamande. 5: a brisé; n'agit pas. 6: on y circule; rongeur. 7: adjectif possessif; recouvre l'oreiller. 8: à suivre. 9: intervenu en musique; support les balles de golf. 10: n'avouent pas; spécialité.

Verticalement. A: vision. B: se jette dans la Seine; conjonction de coordination. C: on y fait des études supérieures. D: pronom personnel; négatif. E: ex-citation. F: offices religieux. G: infinitif; touche. H: elle est envahie par les noisetiers. I: Trinité; hène; passer sous silence. J: décrites.

(Solution en bas de page)

A L'AFFICHE

CINEMA

L'esprit des lois. Adaptation de l'oeuvre "pré-révolutionnaire" de Montesquieu (1748), par R. Bolier. Centre culturel français, samedi 27 mai à 16h00.

Hanna et ses sœurs, de Woody Allen, avec Woody Allen, Michael Caine, Mia Farrow et Carrie Fisher. On est question de la vie, de la mort, de l'amour, de la famille, de la religion... Centre culturel français, dimanche 28 mai à 19h00 (en anglais).

Les visiteurs du soir, de Marcel Carné, avec Aletty, Alain Cuny, Jules Berry, Marie Déa et Fernand Ledoux (1942). Messagers du diable, un métronome et sa compagne s'introduisent dans le château du baron Huguette, qui s'apprête à se marier. Joueur des sentiments humains, les deux diaboliques usent de sortilèges pour séduire chacun l'un des deux futurs époux. Mais un amour véritable naît entre la châtelaine et son séducteur... Centre culturel français, lundi 29 mai à 20h00 (en français, sous-titré en arabe).

Ciné-club: Séances respectivement à 13h00, 15h00, 17h00, 19h00 et 21h00.

Jeudi 25: Cendrillon (film); Rocky; Sweet dreams; Ten; Goodbye girl.

Vendredi 26: Tommy; All the president need; Fritz's honour; Chinese syndrome; The king and I.

Samedi 27: Nashville; Stray over; Places in the heart; Passage to India; Mahatma; Heaven can wait.

Dimanche 28: Once is not enough; The second act; Passage to India; Mahatma; Heaven can wait.

Lundi 29: Alice does not live here anymore; Animal society; Country; Kramer against Kramer; Sweet California.

Mardi 30: China town; The accused; The Bestman; Same time, next year; Working girl.

Mercredi 31: Good father too; The exorcist; The river; Unmarried woman; Coming home.

Films en version originale. Tél: 683901.

EXPOSITIONS

Nazareth: Exposition des travaux originaux réalisés par les étudiants du collage de Nazareth. Centre culturel français, clôture ce soir.

Souvenirs: Professeur d'art plastique et responsable depuis 1987 de l'image graphique au centre culturel français d'Amman, Olivier Mutillod présente quelques images souvenirs et les affiches qu'il a réalisées pour le CCF ces dernières années (voir ci-contre). Centre culturel français, du 27 mai au 7 juin. (Inauguration samedi à 16h00).

Peinture: Exposition de 45 gouaches et huiles du peintre George S. Kaplanian, né à Jérusalem en 1940. Institut Goethe, du 30 mai au 2 juin. (Inauguration mardi à 17h00).

TELEVISION

Lily et Lily (pièce de théâtre). Grande star, Lily a un défaut: elle préfère rester chez elle plutôt que de continuer à travailler. Une tentative d'enlèvement, la réapparition de son ex-mari et les tribulations de sa soeur jumelle viennent troubler sa tranquillité. JTV, vendredi 26 mai à 17h00.

Solution des mots croisés

Horizontalement. 1: amusements. 2: Pan; Néron. 3: prises; ite. 4: Anvers. 5: ré; végété. 6: rues; rat. 7: tes; taie. 8: itinéraire. 9: ton; tees. 10: nient; es.

Verticalement. A: apparition. B: Marne; ct. C: université. D: se; non. E: enervement. F: messes. G: er; tête. H: noisetiers. I: TNT; taire. J: étés.

EN BREF

Libération. 13 personnes, dont une majorité d'étudiants, arrêtées à titre préventif après les sanglantes manifestations d'avril dans le sud et l'ouest de la Jordanie, ont été libérées dimanche. Le ministre de l'Intérieur avait déjà annoncé la libération, le 10 mai, de 55 détenus liés aux manifestations contre la vie chère. 59 personnes restent incarcérées pour le même motif.

Banque centrale. Le conseil des ministres jordanien a approuvé samedi la nomination de M. Mohammad Said Al-Naboulsi au poste de gouverneur de la banque centrale jordanienne, après la démission de M. Hussein Kassem liée aux émeutes contre la vie chère d'avril. M. Al-Naboulsi avait exercé les fonctions de ministre de l'économie en 1972, poste qu'il devait quitter en 1973 pour celui de la banque centrale jordanienne dont il a démissionné en 1985.

Journal. L'atelier journal du Centre culturel français (CCF) a sorti, mardi, le premier numéro de "CCF-Info". Ce petit magazine de 10 pages a été entièrement rédigé par onze étudiants jordanien francophones. Les journalistes en herbe consacrent l'essentiel de leurs articles à l'actualité du CCF.

Sondage. Les Français sont majoritairement pacifistes si l'on en croit un sondage publié par le quotidien français "Le Monde", lundi. Interrogés sur ce que la France devrait faire en cas d'invasion des forces du pacte de Varsovie, 56% optent pour une tentative de négociation sans entrer dans le conflit militaire. Seulement 28% des Français pensent qu'il pourrait y avoir une troisième guerre mondiale dans les prochaines années, alors que cela semble impossible pour 68% d'entre eux. Un sondage similaire réalisé en 1981 faisait apparaître deux fois moins d'optimistes. L'enquête révèle par ailleurs que 39% des Français craignent plus une agression militaire d'un pays arabe (37% citent l'Iran) que de l'URSS (20%).

Drogue. Un immense dirigeable va être prochainement construit par les Etats-Unis pour lutter contre les trafiquants de drogue qui échappent aux radars en volant en rase-mottes. Le Pentagone superviserait la construction de l'appareil de près de 130 mètres de long, soit le double des modèles classiques. Doté de puissants radars, il aura une autonomie de vol de plusieurs jours. Ce prototype unique au monde devrait être opérationnel en 1993.

Miss URSS. La nouvelle vogue soviétique pour les concours de beauté a connu dimanche sa consécration avec l'élection de la première Miss URSS. L'heureuse élue est une jeune moscovite de 17 ans qui est montée sur le podium après un véritable marathon. L'élection a alterné les défilés, les questions impertinentes quoique sages, la diffusion de spots publicitaires ou d'un film sur l'élection de Miss Monde, ainsi que des danses très osées. On comprend pourquoi les détracteurs de l'élection y voient le "virus de l'Occident".

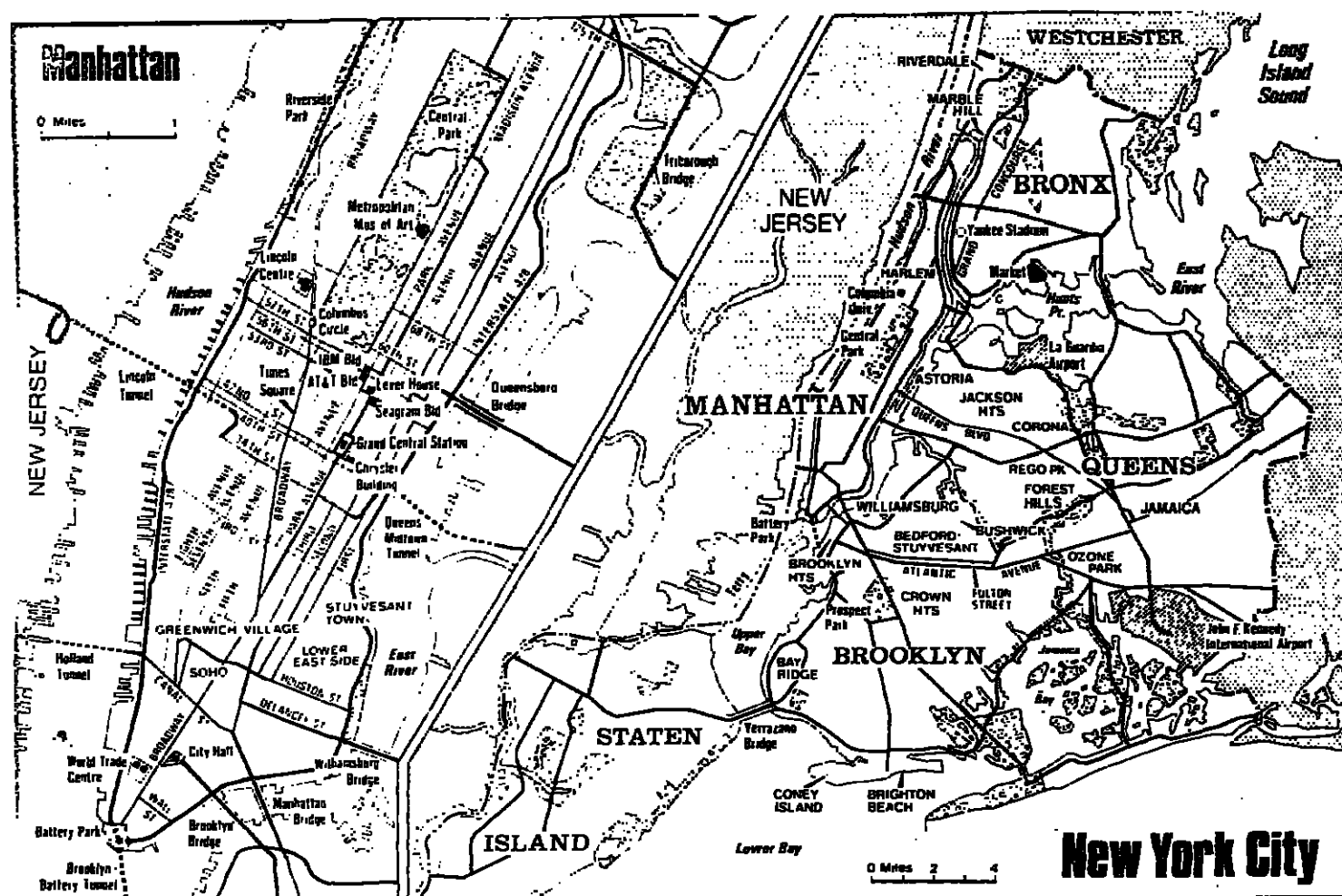
Salon euro-Arabe. Un projet de salon euro-arabe du livre, qui réunira chaque année à partir de 1990 des "créateurs et professionnels du livre consacré au Maghreb, au pays arabes et à la civilisation de l'Islam, en toutes langues", vient d'être présenté à l'Institut du monde arabe (IMA) à Paris. Le commissaire général du salon est Pierre Bernard, directeur des éditions Sindbad. Le comité international de patronage comprend notamment le poète Adonis, les écrivains Naghib Mahfouz, Mahmoud Messadi, le professeur André Michel, Edgard Pisani, président de l'IMA et le prince Talal Iban Abdul Aziz Al-Saoud.

Festival de Cannes. "Erreur de jeunesse" de Radovan Tadic, présenté dans la section "perspectives du cinéma français", et "Caracas" de l'autrichien Michael Schottenberg, présenté dans la section "quinzaine des réalisateurs", ont obtenu dimanche à Cannes respectivement le prix de la jeunesse du film français et le prix de la jeunesse du film étranger. Décerné pour la première fois en 1982, ce prix est attribué par un jury de sept jeunes cinéastes.

Squelette. Le squelette d'un homme enterré il y a 11 000 ans, vient d'être exhumé au Nigeria, près du village d'Ilsaran au sud-ouest du pays. Le squelette serait le plus ancien jamais découvert en Afrique de l'Ouest.

Mozart. Une boucle des cheveux de Mozart a été adjugée 18 000 dollars, vendredi lors d'une vente aux enchères chez Sotheby's à Londres. La précieuse boucle brune, placée sous verre avec une note d'authenticité de la maîtresse du fils du musicien, Joséphine von Baron-Cavalado, est revenue au marchand d'art londonien Otto Haas.

Football. L'Olympique de Marseille (OM) a été sacré champion de France de football pour la cinquième fois, samedi, en battant Auxerre (2-1) lors de la 37ème et avant dernière journée de la compétition. Avec quatre points d'avance et un seul match à jouer, l'OM ne peut plus être rejoint par Paris-SG, tenu en échec sur le terrain de Lens, dernier au classement (0-0).



Has 'Clockwork orange' arrived in paradise?

By Virginia Byrne and Lawrence Neumeister
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Eleven days after a central park jogger was raped and left for dead by a pack of marauding youths, David Bruskin stepped into the last car of a subway train because he didn't want his Piccolo music to bother anyone.

It was a mistake. Two other people were in the car when he got on around 5:30 a.m. five stops later, at Times Square, they had unwelcome company — more than a dozen youths, looking for trouble.

They found Bruskin. Like swarming bees, the teenagers surrounded him, snatched his jacket, punched and bloodied his face, grabbed his wallet and broke his \$300 Piccolo "into smithereens."

Then they marched through the train, chains jutting out, eyes darting left and right.

One witness handed Bruskin his wallet, discarded after the teen-agers stripped it of \$115. But the 39-year-old teacher felt lucky to escape with just a gasp over one eye that required three stitches.

He knew about the 28-year-old woman who was jumped by a gang of youths April 19 as she trotted through Central Park on her evening run.

She was dragged into the woods, beaten with a brick and a pipe, raped repeatedly and left to die, her blood draining into a mud puddle. After more than a week in a coma, she regained consciousness, but a full recovery is questionable.

Some authorities view these incidents as isolated extremes — the acts of a few city teen-agers who find strength and anonymity in numbers. Others say the "ultraviolence" perpetrated by youth gangs in the futuristic cult movie classic "A Clockwork Orange" has arrived in New York.

All agree something is very wrong — with these teen-agers, with the juvenile justice system, or both.

Usually, teen-agers join the loosely knit gangs spontaneously and have little more in common than age and a lust for excitement, police say.

They often strike just after school, wreak havoc for a few hours in binges of what some call "wilding" and then disband.

Tourists are frequent targets; the head of the police department's midtown robbery squad once called them "walking statistics."

Tourists are often alone and vulnerable, wearing jewellery or carrying thick wallets. They are outnumbered by roving columns of teen-agers who have been known to parade through upscale stores, grabbing what they like.

Police recently beefed up patrols in the seedy Times Square area as part of an annual spring push to increase the number of officers there.

Last year, 622 robbery cases and 140 attempted robbery cases referred to family court involved two or more teens, and more than 100 cases of robberies, assaults and larcenies involved groups of five or more, said Peter Reinharz, chief prosecutor for the city law department's family court division.

Ineffectiveness of juvenile justice

"In light of the escalation and severity of the incidents, it appears that we're doing something wrong," Reinharz said.

Rita Kramer, author of "At a tender age: violent youth and

juvenile justice," noted the ineffectiveness of a juvenile justice system that was set up to handle wayward youths rather than young, hardened criminals.

She said many youths report having committed about 10 serious crimes for every one for which they are arrested.

"We're not doing a very good job of deterring or rehabilitating kids," said James Payne, a former probation commissioner now in private legal practice. "They're not deterred and they're not cured."

Kramer and Payne cited another Central Park attack in 1984 when three youths, ages 12, 14 and 16, beat and raped a homeless woman. She survived, but police later learned the same youths had raped and killed another homeless resident of the park a month later.

The oldest two were tried as adults and convicted; the 16-year-old is serving 15 years to life in a state prison.

But the 12-year-old, identified as the ringleader, was sent to

Camp Tryon, an unlocked facility in upstate New York, for up to 18 months. Payne said the youth remained incarcerated through his 13th birthday but then escaped. He would be 17 now.

"He's out there someplace and what he's doing is not much different than what he was doing before he was arrested," Payne asserted.

Reinharz said the system is too soft on children guilty of grisly crimes.

"The 12-year-old who commits a homicide is going to get the same disposition as a 12-year-old who stole credit cards," he said.

Bruskin recalled his attackers were "so matter of fact about it. It was obvious they were used to what they were doing. They looked at my possessions as things they were entitled to."

With the laughter of three female members of the gang still ringing in his ears, Bruskin yanked the car's emergency cord, forcing the train to a halt.

He found two transit police officers in the station and pointed

out three or four members of the group that attacked him. One youngster had been miraculously transformed: in place of the tough glare and muscle-flexing march was the soft, wide-eyed demeanor of a child.

These youths were released. They were members of the gang, but Bruskin said they were not among those who threw punches or robbed him.

Officers took away one boy Bruskin said was in the group. He was released when Bruskin said he wasn't positive he was the one who took his jacket.

One witness, Chris Russell, 28, recalled the horror of what he had seen.

"There were so many of them," he said. "They just came and started beating on him."

The other witness, Richard McMillan, 30, said he could feel danger as soon as the youths came into the car.

"He (Bruskin) didn't feel it because he was too happy playing his flute," McMillan said.

New Paris opera house readies for inaugural concert

By Marilyn August
The Associated Press

PARIS — The countdown has begun at the Opera Bastille.

Some 1,500 labourers are working double shifts to finish the gleaming glass and steel opera house that is scheduled to open July 13 — the Bicentennial anniversary of the French Revolution.

The high-tech musical complex, built on the square where revolutionaries stormed the Bastille prison July 14, 1789, is the attraction opera buffs hope will make Paris a more prominent music centre. But its birth is already mired in controversy.

The new opera is leaderless as workers prepare for the inaugural concert — billed as the centerpiece of the Bicentennial celebration.

Israeli fired

The government fired Israeli conductor Daniel Barenboim in January for his high fees and "elitist views" on opera, according to a statement made by President Francois Mitterrand's representative.

However, the post remains open long after the April 1 deadline French Culture Minister Jack Lang gave for naming a replacement.

The gala opening is equally plagued with controversy.

Less than two months before the curtain is to rise, opera officials have neither announced the full programme nor the orchestra, conductor or singers who will perform before Mitterrand, U.S. President George Bush and other leaders and luminaries.

The Opera Bastille, an expanse of polished granite, glass and stainless steel designed by Canadian architect Carlos Ott, is described by critics as an ocean liner in dry dock.

The building is everything the ornate, century-old Paris opera is not. The Palais Garnier, a landmark known for its baroque design and interior decorated by the 20th century painter Marc Chagall, has been inadequate for decades.

The old opera has a scant 1,600 seats with unobstructed views and

virtually no backstage, which meant that sets had to be built elsewhere, dismantled, brought in and assembled. The cost was staggering, and so were ticket prices.

Tickets at the Opera Bastille, which seats 2,700, are expected to cost \$40 at most, less than half that of the Palais Garnier, which will be devoted to ballet.

The Opera Bastille has 12 stages, each fitted with electronically controlled and motorised wagons so that sets for an entire opera can be moved from rehearsal stages to the main stage within 10 minutes.

Michael Dittmann, the director who drew up the technical specifications, calls the Opera Bastille "practical, not sophisticated."

"The Opera Bastille, an expanse of polished granite, glass and stainless steel designed by Canadian architect Carlos Ott, is described by critics as an ocean liner in dry dock."

"Sophisticated means complicated, and this building isn't complicated," he said during a tour of the building. "It's very simple. It's a place where you have a lot of space."

Daily problems

"Here we don't have the daily

problem of where to put our decor in between performances," he said.

The main stage is equipped with nine elevators, 72 traps and a movable orchestra pit that can be opened or closed in two to three minutes.

The building also has space for costumes, workshops and storage areas, connected directly to the main stage. There are three rehearsal rooms for the orchestra, two for ballet, two for the chorus, 16 studios for singers and 12 for musicians.

While backstage areas are still under construction, the main hall is nearly ready. On a recent visit, workmen were busy polishing granite pillars, washing windows, waxing hardwood floor and installing sleek black cushions.

Despite a glass ceiling and a white, black and gray colour scheme, the atmosphere is intimate, thanks, in part, to two tiers of graceful balconies reminiscent of Japanese pagodas.

Dittmann, says the hall's computer-analysed acoustics are excellent. Even the hall's chairs have been designed with acoustics in mind — there are small holes which allow the sound to pass through when they are empty.

A polystyrene joint under the building absorbs vibrations from the three metro lines that intersect under the Place de la Bastille.

"If that isn't enough, the subway cars themselves will be fitted with special rubber tires," he said.

The rebel of the opera comes to Jordan

The theme is 'Love'

By Nelly Lama

AMMAN — In the same way as the "must" of Cartier offers one an invaluable object, so does the Conservatory of Music under the aegis of the Noor Al-Hassein Foundation in cooperation with Gi Rho Ma offer us a "must" item that no music lover should miss.

The music, this time, belongs to realm

The music, this time, belongs to the realm of opera and musicals. Arias will be sung by American Soprano Rosana Schutte accompanied by pianist Joseph Villadiego (on loan from Gi Rho Ma). The performance will take place at the Royal Cultural Centre Saturday, May 27th at 8:00 p.m.

Rosana Schutte was born in Zambia, Africa, and raised in Afghanistan, Indonesia and Tanzania. She wonders whether her musical inclinations could have started with the influence of the rhythms of African drum-beats. That might explain her present good sense of rhythm.

"My house was full of all kinds of music, opera, musicals etc.," she explains. "So I grew to love music. I was also affected by the Indonesian 'Gamelan' which is based on the oriental scale. Afghanistan's music also has an oriental beat close to Arabic. But one of the most beautiful sounds that I have kept in my mind, is the Muezzin's call to prayer."

Rosana gave her first musical performance when she was only 6 years old. At ten, she had her first singing role. She went on singing in Afghanistan, Indonesia, Ohio and Los Angeles. She worked on her BFA at Ohio State University and then moved to Los Angeles where she was privately tutored by Derek Graydon; it was he who brought her into the world of opera. She then competed in two rounds of the Zachary and Fuchs Opera competition in Los Angeles where 600 national and international male and female vocalists present themselves. She was recognised with distinction and the judges were impressed by her performance; (she had entered the competition after only 5 years of training, still at the embryonic stage). "I still have a long way to go."

Rosana arrived in Amman on Dec. 19, 1988 and met the Jordanian poetess Zuleikha Abu Risha who works with her father. She put her in touch with musical people such as Kifah Fakhoury of the National Conservatory of Music, Nancy Zanami, director of Gi Rho Ma, an institution that teaches music and sells instruments and music literature, as well as soprano singer Tanya Nasser, Abdel-Rahim Omar and other intellectuals and artists.

"People here are so open, sharing, and gifted!" she exclaimed. "It's been lovely to be here in Amman."

During this visit to Jordan, Rosana sang the "Ave Maria" and "Panis Angelicus" accompanied by Joseph, on the organ, at the wedding of the French Acting-Ambassador Francois Dobel and his wife, the French consul, in Mount Nebo, last week. It was the first time that an instrument such as the organ was played in that ancient place.

Theme of Love

Her presentation at the Royal Cultural Centre follows the theme of love and will include Arias like "Ah, Je ris de me voir si belle dans ce miroir" from Charles Gounod's famous lyric opera "Faust" (1859). "Quando m'en vo soletta" from Giacomo Puccini's "La Boheme" where Musetta tries to allure her old lover by crying over what used to be is also included in the programme. From Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's "Die Zauberflote" (The Magic Flute) she sings "Ach ich Fuhl's" where Pamina thinks that peace comes in death rather than in a life without love. "Batti, Batti" from "Don Giovanni" where finds Zerlina asking her lover to beat her for misbehaving is also included among many others.

She ends with "Il est doux, il est bon" from Jules Massenet's Herodiade (Herod's wife). This is sung by Salome about her love, respect and admiration for John the Baptist. It is suave, sensuous and very sentimental.

In the second part, after the intermission, Rosana will sing musical numbers that deal with love such as "Music of the night" from "The Fantom of the Opera", "Maybe this time, I'll be lucky" from "Cabaret" which shows a person who is not too lucky with love, it is followed by a medley of "fish gotta swim, birds gotta fly", "Memories", "Where are the simple joys of maidenhood" from Camelot. This is a very funny part which is why Rosana tries to articulate the words to make them comprehensible to the audience. "Tonight, tonight," from West Side Story, then "Fancy forgetting" from the musical "The Boyfriend" it is a girl's reaction to the boyfriend's forgetting his date with her. This is followed by a sarcastic piece "They say that falling in love is wonderful" and a drop of hope in "Look to the Rain" from "Finnian's Rainbow".

This is followed by a medley that gives the girl's point of view on love "My White Knight" from "The Music Man" and "Waiting for my dearie," from "Brigadoon,"



Rosana Schutte, the James Dean of opera

"Love-er-ly" from "My Fair Lady" and "Heather on the Hill" from "Brigadoon." "Almost like being in love" comes up next with its comic rhyme.

Ecstasy

"Maybe this time" and "Send in the clowns." Then comes "Memory" from Cats where Rosana promises to give a very feline and dramatic rendering. This is followed by the song "Empty Glass" from the Rubayyat of Omar Khayyam the music composed by Hamilton Camp has an Arab beat.

A final return "Cabaret" and the last bars of "Music of the night" which should tie the whole act together. In short, one hour and ten minutes of ecstasy.

Rosana has been given free rein in producing and directing this show.

Kifah Fakhoury was instrumental in procuring her with the necessary parts while the pianist, Villadiego, has been of great assistance to her. "He has accompanied singers before, so he offers suggestions such as emphasising a certain part, I try it out and sometimes it comes out wonderful. I appreciate the freedom of doing my own interpretation of these works. My forte is drama, which is why I sympathise with Maria Callas; for technique I look up to Kitty Takanawa."

Rosana wants to defy all conventions "Opera houses often choose one way of staging and stick to it as the only way of interpretation. There is a danger of stagnation in that" she explains. "Of course I would like to sing in Vienna, in

the New York Metropolitan, etc., but I want to sing in my way. The composer gives you everything you need, you can interpret his music even if you do not understand the language. When I approach a piece, I first learn the notes and attempt to be technically correct, then I acquire a feel for the music. I then hear at least 3 different versions of it and finally adopt my own interpretation. They'll have to reckon with me as being the "James Dean" of opera, the rebel," she said.

Rosana is planning a workshop called "The Opera Experience" that she will be giving to beginners and singers alike, at the National Music Conservatory, from May 29 until July 7. She means to introduce people to opera, to see how it sounds in their voice, how it feels, how it differs from Arabic singing. She will review the works of Mozart and Puccini showing the difference between the composers. She might even give a little informal concert with her students.

About her future plans she explains, "I got acquainted with the famous Soprano Rita Hunter who is a brilliant dramatic soprano, one of the best post-war voices, she was awarded the C.B.E. (Commander of the British Empire) title by Queen Elizabeth. She is now based in Australia living with her husband and teacher John Thomas. She had the ability to listen to my voice in Los Angeles and asked me whether I was interested in studying her in Australia. I am on my way there now." Good artists are always willing to learn more!

Once mighty capital crumbling

By Jeffrey Ulbrich
The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS, Senegal — St. Louis, once the throbbing capital of a vast French West African empire, has fallen on hard times.

The atmosphere is still there. Palm trees sway. Beige and pink colonial-style buildings with wrought iron balconies and flowering bushes line the narrow streets. Local residents in brightly coloured dresses and robes go about their daily business under a tropical African sun. Horse-drawn carts still clip clop through the narrow streets.

But the one-time capital of the former French colony of Senegal, the federation of territories known as French West Africa and the colony of Mauritania has lost the first two titles to the booming southern city of Dakar.

The third title — capital of Mauritania — was lost in 1960 when that country declared its independence and Nouakchottin was built on vacant desert land 300 kilometres to the north.

"St. Louis has been abandoned," Bemoans Marie Jo Durande, who runs the 150-year-old Hotel de La Poste in this island-city on the Senegal river.

"There are a few tourists who do a circuit from Dakar to the

Casamance in the south and St. Louis," Durande said.

"Otherwise, it's mostly businessmen and a few backpackers."

City officials are trying to attract moneyed visitors by sprucing up the city. A few of the principal historical buildings are being restored or at least repainted. But the charming city is crumbling faster than residents can repair it.

"The heart of St. Louis is on an island in the Senegal river Estuary. It was from here that Gen. Louis Faidherbe ruled over a vast chunk of 19th century Africa and 'pacified' its natives. Founded in 1959, St. Louis was a headquarters for French companies plying trade in gum Arabic, ivory, leather, gold and slaves, and later a colonial and political capital."

Typical of the decay is the Adamson Museum, named after 18th century Botanist Michel Adamson.

Attractions fall apart

Inside, specimens of Senegalese fauna rot in the display cases, animal skins fall apart and stuffing hangs out of stuffed animals. Exhibits of costumes, artifacts

and tools from the country's many ethnic groups are crumbling.

Abdul Haidara, director of the center for research and documentation on Senegal that houses the museum, can only shrug his shoulders and plod on with the little funding available.

The heart of St. Louis is on an island in the Senegal river estuary. It was from here that Gen. Louis Faidherbe ruled over a vast

chunk of 19th century Africa and "pacified" its natives.

The island is connected by the iron Faidherbe bridge to the mainland and by two other bridges to the Langue de Barbarie, a spit of land that separates the island from the waves of the Atlantic ocean.

Founded in 1659, St. Louis was a headquarters for French companies plying trade in gum Ara-

bic, ivory, leather, gold and slaves, and later a colonial and political capital.

The English snatched it on several occasions when European wars spilled into Africa — for six months in 1693, from 1758 to 1779, from 1809 to 1816. As a result, several Armstrongs, O'Hares and Pattersons are numbered among St. Louis families.

Leaving the island of St. Louis and its one traffic light, one enters another world on the Langue de Barbarie, a teeming African world of bustling markets, aggressive colours and hot sand.

The Langue also faces a dubious future; the Atlantic is encroaching.

Moammar Sourang, president of the chamber of commerce, says with some exaggeration that when his father wanted to walk to the sea, he had to get up early in the morning to get there by afternoon. Now, he says the Atlantic is at his feet.

Turning south, one passes through the Guet-Ndar district, 900 metres long by 400 metres wide and packed with 18,000 people, mostly fishermen. The district and the people are poor, but the whole area is vibrant and alive, a contrast with the city which seems to be holding its breath.

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Focus on people Beyond a balance



Pauline Cutting with one of her patients from Bourj Al Barajneh, Bilal who was brought to England to be treated at the Stoke Mandeville hospital

By Mariam M. Shahin

Pauline Cutting, the British surgeon who spent eighteen months in the Bourj Al Barajneh refugee camp in Beirut, saving lives and limbs of countless Palestinian refugees and Lebanese war victims alike, spoke to focus on people after concluding a short visit to Amman.

Dedication to one's career and profession have taken many people from one part of the world to another. Many work long hours, disregard weekends and yearly vacations in order to give their utmost to the profession which they think is worthwhile. Some serve governments, institutions of various sorts or themselves. A few, those "chosen few", let us call them, serve humanity in a form so unselfish and giving, that their purity of giving brings them close to a kind of sainthood.

Although some medics around the world have been considered "cut throats" of sorts, by some people, for the exorbitant prices they often charge for saving peoples lives, some actually study medicine in order to help others and not to get rich. Dr. Pauline Cutting certainly belongs to the latter category.

Cutting was looking for a place to work as her appointment as a junior hospital doctor in the burns and plastic surgery department at Queen Mary's Hospital in Roehampton was coming to an end. Since she was interested in working outside of England, she decided to enquire about the possibility of working with the British charity MAP (Medical Aid for Palestinians). MAP was seeking out volunteers to work in Lebanon. At the time Cutting had no connection with Arabs or the Arab World as such.

As a result of her enquiries Pauline Cutting began what was to be a long intense involvement with victims of Lebanon's never ending war, in particular in the Palestinian camps. On Dec. 6, 1985 Cutting arrived at Beirut International Airport, for a tour of duty meant to last three months. She was to stay a year and a half.

Although she was technically in charge of the surgery department at the Haila Hospital in the Bourj Al Barajneh refugee camp for Palestinian refugees, she acknowledges "I was the most qualified on paper, but the doctors there had so much more experience than me." But as a qualified surgeon making a career in accident and emergency work, and with an interest in trauma and experience in burns and reconstructive plastic surgery Cutting found she had come to a very "appropriate destination."

Conditions were brutal. Cutting and her European and Palestinian colleagues from the camp often worked with minimum or no electricity, little water, no anesthetics and often no food. During her stay at Barajneh, her life was endangered on countless occasions as the hospital and the camp was constant target for shelling. She, along with what became her companion camp dwellers, were exposed not only to bombardment but also starvation, malnutrition and trauma.

In her book "Children on the siege," published last year, she bears witness to the gruesome inhumanity endured by the Palestinians of the camp. One day a woman, "was shot while trying to collect grass on the outskirts of the camp to be able to feed her seven children..."

She vividly remembers that after food was smuggled into the camp during the endless siege on Barajneh "the relief at seeing food was almost too great to control and, as I saw the eggs cracked into the pan, my eyes filled with tears."

Amid the crisis, Cutting and her colleagues made the ultimate commitment... "we will stay with the people of the camp until the danger is over. We will remain with them — to live or die with them."

But eventually, in April 1987, the siege was lifted. In the course of its 163 days Cutting nearly went deaf, had lice and ate donkey meat, ("some ate cats and dogs!"). As a result of intense pressure from various parties, the militias surrounding the camp lifted their blockade and Cutting's "nightmare" came to an end. Her place was taken over by Dr. Swee Chai Ang who incidentally was also visiting Amman this week.

Once back in England Cutting was reunited with her parents and friends, and found herself explaining her decision to stay at the camp when she had been given the choice to leave. "My parents had always taught me to respect human life, they understood what I was doing."

Ben Alofi, Cutting's Dutch colleague and friend, with whom she had shared the worst moments in the camp, became her husband. Both have been working actively with MAP since their departure from Beirut.

Although they live in Holland, Cutting has attempted to return to Beirut on several occasions after the publication of her book. She has not been granted permission yet. She has, however, managed a month-long visit to the occupied West Bank and Gaza strip during the intifadah and had a lot to say on the working democracy of the Israeli authorities.

"In the West they always say (vis-a-vis the Arab-Israeli conflict) 'be objective and balanced', but you can't very well be balanced if the situation is not balanced."

The Israeli authorities have been doing everything to deny medical attention to as many Palestinians as possible. Doctors are arrested, patients are arrested while in the hospital, superficial fees are imposed as an entry requirement for government hospitals.

On the structural level, Cutting noted that Palestinians were systematically prevented from gaining medical expertise. "Only token specialisation students are accepted at Israeli universities, while most are not allowed into their medical schools in the first place. Those that specialise outside the country are usually not allowed back in or are denied permission to practice or they are expelled, or something or other," she said.

But the Palestinians are not to be beaten. Medics and nurses are working on a volunteer basis, they are very well organised and very courageous, according to Cutting.

"Before 1982 the world thought of the Palestinians as terrorists, but as a result of the publicity that events in Lebanon and the occupied territories have received that is no longer the case. The world knows who the Palestinians are and what they are doing. The Palestinians in return have paid dearly for the publicity. They have paid the price in blood."

Pauline Cutting's next stop will be in Kuwait before going to London to continue her work on behalf of MAP. She is accompanied by her tricultural son of two months, whom she has called Timothy Franz Ammar.

Soviet crime rate increases as reforms go into effect

A price for reforms?

By John-Thor Dahlburg
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — In the Soviet city of Gorky, in the heart of the Volga River Port, criminals with sawed-off shotguns murdered two policemen because they wanted their pistols.

Shocked residents of the metropolis 400 kilometres east of Moscow now are scared to leave home at night or let their children stray from sight.

"In Gorky, people are afraid to go out," one newspaper reported. "Even downtown, streets become deserted in the evening," another said.

For most Soviets, violent crime was once what they saw on television reports about Western nations, or in film imports like Hollywood two-reelers about prohibition gangsters. But no more.

President Mikhail S. Gorbachev's reforms and loosened controls have not only made Soviets better informed about crime at home — they have sparked a surge in lawlessness itself, by the Kremlin leader's own admission.

"From the very outset, we had to bear in mind that any extension of democracy and humanisation of life should go in parallel with an uncompromising struggle against criminal elements," Gorbachev told Communist Party leaders last month. "But party and government bodies, and also work collectives, permitted a slackening of attention to those issues."

In the past week alone, the Soviet Union's police blotter has included these crimes, as reported by state-run media:

A police officer obtained entry to a bank in Armenia, and he and his confederates made off with \$330,000 after a cashier and three policemen died in a hail of bullets, on learning of the corrupt policeman's crime, his mother committed suicide.

A criminal gang nicknamed "the jackals" terrorised the capital of Kazakhstan, Alma Ata. The chief of criminal investigators in the central Asian republic said he has never encountered such gruesome offences in 30 years of police work. One example: the

jackals befriended women, then raped and strangled them.

In the Siberian region of Omsk, two 20-year army deserters went on a crime spree and battled with police, firing at them with a sub-machine gun. The outlaws were captured while asleep in a forest hideout.

For Soviets accustomed to hearing that crime was a product of capitalist exploitation and would disappear under socialism, such reports — now possible under the Kremlin's policy of greater openness — are perplexing and frightening. Official statistics show the country's crime problem is getting worse.

According to Deputy Interior Minister N. Demidov, total crime nationwide soared 31.2 per cent for the first four months of 1989 compared with the same period last year. Robberies skyrocketed by 86.7 per cent and burglaries increased by more than two-thirds, Demidov told the newspaper Trud last week.

15,000 and more

Trud said more Soviets now are murdered every year by criminals than died during the nine years of Soviet involvement in the Afghan war, which claimed 15,000 soldiers. The Soviet Union's population is 289.7 million.

In 1986, 20,610 Americans were murdered, according to U.S. statistics. The U.S. population is 243 million.

The Soviet interior ministry, which is in charge of police affairs, has created a department to combat lawlessness by fighting its causes, such as drug abuse, drinking and parasitism, the official TASS news agency announced.

The same day, a special party commission on legal matters, chaired by former KGB Chief Viktor M. Chebrikov, acknowledged that "the state of public order in the country is deteriorating and the number of grave crimes is rising" and recommended better training for Soviet police, more specialisation for police detectives and a "single nationwide programme for com-

bating crime."

Firearms and offences committed with them are still far rarer in Soviet society than in the United States, but a poll published this week by the Moscow News weekly indicates the fear of crime is as widespread among Soviet city dwellers as their U.S. counterparts.

In Moscow, 33 per cent of those polled said they are afraid to venture out alone at night in the street where they live. That was more than in three of the four U.S. cities surveyed, Boston, Detroit and San Francisco, and was topped only by New York's 38 per cent, according to the survey, conducted in part by the Institute of Sociology of the Soviet Academy of Sciences.

One crime surge can be directly traced to Gorbachev's reforms, namely extortion. The number of potential prey for racketeers has burgeoned since the Soviet government began promoting the spread of cooperatives, a move that has put more money into private hands.

Pravda, the Communist Party daily, reported this year that Soviet cooperative workers were "making guns and bombs right at work" to protect themselves from shakedown, and said their cry had become: "I'm buying a gun."

In Gorky, a city of 1.5 million where the policemen were slain in February, authorities settled on officially sponsored vigilantism as one way to fight a 75-per cent increase in serious crime. They created "emergency commissions" headed by local party chiefs and "workers' militias."

Workers are sent by their factories to work with police for a year or more, and the enterprises pay their normal salaries and buy their police uniforms, the daily Sovetskaya Rossiya reported.

Yulian Sememov, a thriller writer who has often made CIA agents his villains, told the Literary Gazette weekly recently that speed is essential in fighting lawlessness and it causes.

"If we go slowly, the streets of Moscow, Leningrad and other big cities soon will start to resemble New York's, not by the quantity of cars, goods in the stores or choice of restaurants, but by the number of criminals, drug addicts and prostitutes," the writer said.



Public discussions have become much more common after reforms were introduced



A canyon lost in time

By Robert Seavey
The Associated Press

COLCA CANYON, Peru — Modernity is creeping into the world's deepest gorge, where the descendants of pre-Inca people have lived among exotic vegetation and ancient ruins protected by 4,345-meter walls.

Isolated for centuries by cloud-shrouded Andean peaks, the 100-kilometre canyon cut by the Colca River was connected in the 1970s with Peru's second largest city by a gravel track.

Now, the people who used to rely on a barter system handle money and wear manufactured clothing. The thatched roofs are being replaced by tin and tourists are making their way into the terraced Volcanic Valley to see the people and pre-Columbian ruins.

The gorge, described as "a lost valley of the Incas" by the 1933 expedition of Americans Robert Shippee and George Johnson, is emerging from obscurity.

"The whole history of Peruvian man is summarised in this startling landscape, which until only a few years ago was incomprehensible with the rest of Peru," Peruvian novelist Mario Vargas Llosa wrote in the forward to the recently published "Discovering the Colca Valley," one of the few books on the region.

Plunging from surrounding mountain ridges, the Colca drops 4,345 metres to the Colca River and varies in width from 6.4 to 20.9 kilometres, according to the Guinness Book of World Records. It would take 14.5 Eiffel Towers (each 300 metres high) stacked one atop the other to reach the canyon rim.

Although Hell's Canyon in the western United States is the lowest canyon, dropping 2,408 metres into the earth's crust, this gorge nestled high in the Andes is the deepest, tour guides and Guinness' says.

The canyon and valley floor are home to Indian Campesinos, descendants of pre-Inca tribesmen who settled here 3,000 years ago and grow corn and potatoes on terraced fields carved from the slopes. Ancient irrigation canals keep the land productive.

Most Campesinos still build their homes from adobe clay or rocks, and rely on the wool of their Alpaca herds for clothing.

They share these misty highlands with Andean condors and scores of rare flora and fauna,

such as giant cactus and the Guanaco, an elusive cousin of the Llama.

Residents, until now, had infrequent visitors.

1,500's

Spanish Conquistadors who reached Colca in the mid-1500s, built churches and towns atop Indian villages, and then left, said Mauricio de Romana, one of the authors of "Discovering the Colca Valley."

Not until a gravel road was put through in the mid-1970s, linking it with Arequipa, 150 kilometres south, was travel easy. Arequipa, Peru's second largest city, is 875 kilometres southeast of Lima.

But Romana, a director of the Colca Foundation, which seeks to preserve the zone, said the arrival of the modern world has not yet had a serious impact on the Colca or its people.

The road has brought change to the Indians' self-sufficient lifestyle, Romana told reporters. Tourists have brought jobs and Colca is becoming well known — just five hours over rugged roads from Arequipa, across the barren and cold Altiplano and around volcanic cones.

The canyon rim offers a bird's eye view of walls plunging thousands of metres to the rushing Colca River and of condors gliding on thermal winds over farms and villages.

The most dramatic haunts are several days farther by foot and mule, and are seen by just a hearty handful of the 10,000 to 15,000 tourists who reach the Colca annually, says Romana.

Anthony Holley, an Arequipa guide, said some visitors are discouraged because they cannot easily reach the deepest area.

The arduous journey, a shortage of lodgings and unsafe conditions signal some of the major problems facing Peruvian tourism.

In the last several years, Peru has been hit with spreading social and economic chaos, fuelled by its worst recession of the century.

Tourism officials say the country does not have the money to invest substantially in tourism infrastructure or even protect what already exists.

But officials say the Colca so far seems to have been spared from a recent upsurge in highway banditry and the bloody leftist guerrilla insurgency plaguing many other areas of the country.

Radiation clean-up at home to nuclear nomads

By Giff Johnson
Reuters

BIKINI ATOLL, MARSHALL ISLANDS — The nomads of Bikini atoll may be able to settle down at last.

Inhabitants of the tiny Western Pacific Island have been relocated over and over since the United States exploded 23 test atomic bombs there between 1946 and 1958.

This month Marshall Islands leaders began the first stage of a massive clean-up to make the crescent-shaped island, four kilometres long and ringed with beautiful beaches, inhabitable again.

They are using a \$90-million trust fund given by the U.S. government to decontaminate the place and eventually resettle 1,500 Bikinians.

Construction and engineering work has begun and land cleared so houses can be built and crops planted. But experts think it may be 10 years before the area is safe to live in.

The islanders began their odyssey in 1946 when Washington started its testing with a blast over a fleet of American and Japanese warships anchored in the Bikini lagoon. A French fashion designer named a new two-piece swimsuit after the atoll.

Inhabitants had been moved to a tiny island nearby, but had to be relocated two years later because they were starving.

They were resettled on Kili, an uninhabited island where most still live.

In 1954, the United States exploded the first hydrogen bomb on Bikini. It was 1,000 times more powerful than the American bombs dropped on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 at the end of World War II. It exposed hundreds of islanders to radioactive fallout and vapourised three small islets.

In 1968, U.S. scientists declared the former nuclear test site safe for habitation and a small group of islanders moved back. But 10 years later medical tests showed the Bikinians were absorbing high levels of radioactivity by eating local coconuts and other fruit, so they were evacuated again.

The Marshall Islands, a U.S.-administered United Nations trust territory after the war, became self-governing under U.S. military protection in 1979. In 1982 it signed a pact giving it "free association" status with Washington.

Over the years Bikinians have filed multi-million-dollar lawsuits against the United States over the nuclear damage.

"That's when the Americans started paying attention to us," says Bikini mayor Tomaki Juda. Islanders dropped the suits last year when Washington agreed to give the Bikinians the trust fund to underwrite the clean-up and resettlement plan.

Bikini leaders have not yet decided how best to clean up the soil.

Scientists who have been doing tests there for the past 10 years suggest using potassium fertiliser to lower the soil's radiation level.

Juda says most Bikinians favour a more complicated technique, that of scraping off two feet of top soil and replacing it with uncontaminated earth imported from the United States.

That method has its problems. It could mean the eventual clean-up bill would exceed \$200 million, and it could leave the place in the end looking like a lunar landscape, making it difficult to restore fertility.

In the meantime, an engineering site master plan has been prepared for the first phase of the clean-up of nuclear debris and contaminated soil, according to Jack Niedenthal, an American hired by the Bikinians to act as liaison officer with Washington for the project.

Although the project will take years, islanders are already thinking ahead to the day when they might turn a decontaminated Bikini into a tourist spot.

The 90-odd World War II battleships lying at the bottom of the atoll's lagoon are a potential scuba diver's paradise.

U.S. navy divers have located nine of the Japanese and American naval ships sunk during the first nuclear tests and this summer underwater archaeologists and scientific illustrators from the U.S. national park service are scheduled to begin assessing di-

ving conditions off the wrecks. While it may take a decade before Bikinians can move back to a nuclear-free island, they are building a council house on the atoll so small groups of tribal elders can start visiting for weeks at a time.

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Intifada drains Israeli economy

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — A 17-month-old Palestinian uprising has dealt a severe blow to Israel's economy, thwarting government efforts to get it moving again.

Figures released in May by the Central Bureau of Statistics point to a continuing slowdown despite a government austerity programme to cut inflation and stimulate growth.

Defence ministry moves to impose new restrictions on the estimated 120,000 Palestinians, who provide cheap labour for Israel's construction, agricultural and tourism sectors, could further disrupt the economy, at least temporarily.

Gross domestic product (GDP) did not grow at all in the first four months of this year. Exports and imports fell, new investment and private consumption declined and there was no significant improvement in industrial production.

Statistics for 1988 show GDP — the total value of goods and services produced domestically — rose by only 1.6 per cent, the slowest growth since 1982 and a sharp drop from the 5.2 per cent GDP growth recorded in 1987.

Industrial output fell by three per cent last year. Unemployment surged to 8.2 per cent in March this year, after an average of 6.4 per cent last year.

The Bank of Israel said a drop in domestic demand due to the uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and a decline in export profitability due to an overvalued shekel caused the slowdown.

Underground leaders of the uprising have urged Palestinians to boycott Israeli goods.

Despite the gloomy figures, Deputy Finance Minister Yossi Beilin said the first results of the January austerity plan would only be seen in a few weeks.

"We need more time to get the business sector to believe in the programme," he said.

The government also hopes to remove some of the socialist shackles on the Israeli economy by privatising some state-owned enterprises.

The immediate impact of Janu-

ary's package of subsidy and budget cuts, increases in the price of public services and a 13.6 per cent devaluation, was to send consumer prices rocketing by 9.7 per cent in the first four months of 1989.

A Bank of Israel survey found most local companies were pessimistic about the near future. They reported a decline in new orders and big stocks of unsold goods.

The central bank said in March that the worst might be over. "In 1989, the business sector should recover and the depression should come to an end," its quarterly report said. But private economists are now less sure that recovery is on the way.

Most economists believe the key short-term goal is to bring down inflation from 17 per cent in 1988 to single figures, in line with its European and U.S. trading partners.

Israel was plagued by hyperinflation in the early 1980s.

Finance Minister Shimon Peres recently told an International Monetary Fund (IMF) delegation that inflation would fall to nine

per cent by the end of 1989 and to 7.5 per cent in 1990.

That now seems impossible. Most economists expect inflation to remain close to 1988 levels this year.

The IMF group warned that Israel's expansionist monetary policy contradicted its aim of lower inflation.

Central bank governor Bruno urged economic policymakers to be patient.

"Stimulating the economy toward growth without sound foundations, for example by budgetary injection, might bring about a short episode of economic expansion, but will not help to achieve long-term sustained growth," he said.

Bruno said the success of the austerity plan depended partly on the government's determination to prevent real wage rises in Israel's swollen public sector.

Despite rising unemployment the government has so far failed to reduce real wages, which remained steady in 1988 after sharp rises in 1987 and 1986, the Bank of Israel said.



Processing aluminium in Bahrain

Bahrain to expand aluminium factory in \$1 billion project

BAHRAIN (R) — Bahrain has given the go-ahead for a billion-dollar expansion of its aluminium smelter to double capacity to 400,000 tonnes a year, industry sources have said.

They said the government, which owns 57.9 per cent of Aluminium Bahrain BSC (ALBA), had appointed U.S. firm Bechtel Corp as management consultants for the four-year project.

The expansion, which is in addition to a current \$130 million modernisation programme designed to boost capacity to 205,000 tonnes a year from the current 170,000 tonnes, would make ALBA the largest aluminium smelter in the region.

French firm aluminium Pechiney would provide the technology for two new pot rooms at the smelter with a current capacity of 180,000 tonnes a year, the sources said. A new power station would also be built.

Details for financing the project — estimated to cost at least \$1 billion — were still being worked out but plans included a combination of export credit, equity and commercial loans, the sources said.

A design contract was being negotiated with Bechtel and work would begin as soon as it was signed, they added.

The only other aluminium smelter in the Gulf, Dubai Aluminium, has a capacity of around 170,000 tonnes a year.

But investors in the region are planning a series of projects that promise to make the Gulf a major international power in aluminium, using cheap energy and abundant capital.

In Saudi Arabia, investors led by Jeddah-based Xel Industries Ltd. are planning a 240,000-tonne smelter for the industrial city of Yanbu.

Qatar also intends to build a

plant which could take advantage of the North Field natural gas deposits as they are developed over the next few years.

Other shareholders in ALBA are the Saudi Arabian Public Investment Fund with a 20 per cent stake, U.S. firm Kaisertech Ltd with 17 per cent, and West Germany's Breton Investments with 5.1 per cent.

Seminar puts emphasis on creating right climate for investments

AMMAN (Petra) — A specialised seminar on appraising progress in the implementation of 24 projects in the Arab World ended in Amman, with the participants passing a set of recommendations designed to promote inter-Arab cooperation in investment and in the execution of joint ventures.

The participants, who came from seven countries including Jordan, called for intensified efforts on the national and pan-Arab levels to create a suitable atmosphere for investments in the Arab World.

The statement referred to the importance for Arab states to adopt clear strategies in the field of investment and to revise legislation and regulations concerning investment with a view to giving them a further boost.

The participants discussed all positive and negative aspects related to investment. The two-day meeting, which was organised by the Inter-Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation and the Ministry of Industry and Trade, conducted an assessment of joint projects being implemented in Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Sudan, Tunisia, Morocco and North Yemen, and reviewed working papers on socio-economic potentials in these countries.

British trade team arrives in Jordan tomorrow

AMMAN (Petra) — A British trade delegation is due here Friday on a five-day visit to Jordan.

The team will hold talks with officials from the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources and the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) as well as chambers of industry and trade and businessmen on means of bolstering Jordanian-British industrial and trade relations.

ESCWA drafts strategy for M.E.



Tayseer Abdul Jabbar

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — The U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) meeting in Baghdad, capital of Iraq, is drafting a long-term strategy for promoting de-

velopment in the region, the official Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported Tuesday.

The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said the strategy stresses the importance of speeding up social and economic development, expanding industrial production, diversifying sources of income and concentrating more on the commodities sector.

The 13-member commission began its biannual meeting at its Baghdad headquarters last week to discuss economic and social issues and cooperation for the decade 1991-2000.

Members of the all-Arab commission are Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, North Yemen, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Yemen, Syria, the United Arab Emirates and Pales-

tine.

In his opening speech May 17, ESCWA chief Tayseer Abdul Jabbar blamed the reversal of the region's economic growth on the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Iran-Iraq war and the civil war in Lebanon.

But he said bad economic policies, wasteful government spending, uncontrolled imports and the international economic crisis had also helped worsen the situation.

Other factors were the fluctuation in the value of the U.S. dollar and the drop in oil prices in the 1980s, Abdul Jabbar added.

The draft strategy called for upgrading agricultural efficiency through modern technology, and governmental and non-governmental participation in the agricultural sector, INA said.

It urged regional governments to remedy the problem of unemployment and curb migration from rural to urban areas, the agency added.

The draft recommended that regional countries deal with the problem of external debts and "economic subservience" by formulating long-term economic policies, minimising dependence on external financial resources and "realising the best utilisation and development of energy resources."

The draft also called for enhancing economic cooperation and integration to provide the best conditions for regional social and economic development, INA said.

Britain raises interest rates to 14%

LONDON (Agencies) — The government, if its continuing fight against resurgent inflation, Wednesday pushed up interest rates a full percentage point to 14 per cent, their highest level in more than four years.

The increase, the first since November, was triggered by weakness in the British pound.

The Bank of England signalled the rise in the British commercial banks' key base lending rate by announcing that it was raising its own money market rate to 14 per cent.

Britain's four major commercial banks, Barclays Bank PLC, Midland Bank PLC, National Westminster Bank PLC and Lloyds Bank PLC, responded by raising their base rate one point to that level.

After its announcement, the Bank of England underlined its support for the pound by intervening against the dollar, foreign exchange dealers said.

Both moves helped lift the pound about one cent against the dollar but the pound quickly fell back from highs reached immediately after the rate announcement.

The government was "obviously reacting because it is concerned about the fall in the pound," said Tim Fox, an economist at Midland Bank.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, speaking at the Conservative Party's Women's National Conference, repeated that high interest rates were necessary to bring down inflation, which is running at an annual rate

of eight per cent, compared with 3.9 per cent a year ago.

She said that while the effects of high interest rates might be uncomfortable, continued high inflation would be worse.

A treasury official, who wasn't identified in accordance with British practice, said the government "has always made it clear that we will take no risks with inflation."

Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson, the treasury's top official, has repeatedly stated over the past few months that the government was prepared to defend sterling because a decline in the currency would increase infla-

tionary pressures.

The eight per cent annual inflation rate for April raised expectations that inflation would climb higher, rather than peak at that level, as Lawson had forecast in March.

The last time interest rates stood at 14 per cent was in March 1985.

The commercial banks' corporate customers can obtain loans at one percentage point above the base rate.

The dollar refused Wednesday to budge from its highest levels for 2 1/2 years because of signs that U.S. interest rates will stay high.

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SUBSTANTIAL REWARD FOR MISSING DOG

A black Doberman Pinscher with brown markings was lost near the 8th Circle, Friday 19 May.

If anyone have seen or knows the whereabouts of a dog fitting description, please contact 644371 ext. 202.

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AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

We, Tuesday, May 24, 1989		Central Bank official rates		Buy		Sell	
U.S. dollar	338.0	542.0					
Pound Sterling	837.1	853.2					
Deutsche mark	266.6	270.2					
Swiss franc	299.4	303.3					
French franc	75.7	79.6					
Japanese yen (for 100)	375.1	381.0					
Dutch guilder	236.6	239.4					
Swedish crown	79.4	81.3					
Italian lira (for 100)	36.8	37.2					
Belgian franc (for 10)	127.4	128.9					

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.5715/25	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.1995/2005	Canadian dollar	
	2.0100/07	Deutsche marks	
	2.2663/73	Dutch guilders	
	1.7870/80	Swiss francs	
	42.08/12	Belgian francs	
	6.8100/50	French francs	
	1456/1457	Italian lire	
	142.40/50	Japanese yen	
	6.7470/7520	Swedish crowns	
	7.2260/2310	Norwegian crowns	
	7.8300/50	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	361.70/362.20	U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Prices were sharply lower as investors took profits after recent gains by blue chips. The All Ordinaries Index fell 12.9 to 1,570.4.

TOKYO — Prices closed mostly mixed in a late rebound sparked by futures-linked and investment trust buying after a sluggish day. Investors awaited a rise in the discount rate in light of the dollar's surge against the yen. The Nikkei Index was up 35.21 at 33,851.82.

HONG KONG — Stocks closed slightly lower after a volatile day. Dealers said the market appeared to be regaining touch with economic reality. The Hang Seng Index shed 58.92 to 3,008.73.

SINGAPORE — Prices fell in dull trading as uncertainty on foreign markets kept investors on the sidelines. The Straits Times Industrial Index fell 11.35 to 1,280.57.

BOMBAY — Prices closed mixed in poor trading in the absence of investor and institutional buying support. Associated Cement lost four rupees to 322. Tata Steel and Gujarat Fertiliser rose 2.5 each to 1,265 and 150 respectively.

FRANKFURT — Sharp rises for Volkswagen and other export-oriented blue chip shares sent prices soaring. The DAX index rose 19.53 to 1,372.09.

ZURICH — Prices closed generally lower in fairly quiet trading as worries about interest rates continued to dampen market sentiment. The Swiss performance index fell 8.8 to 999.4.

PARIS — Prices ended firmer on the first day of the June account in fairly active trading.

LONDON — Shares were weak in late trading after a hectic day in which U.K. base rates jumped one full point to 14 per cent, takeover bids worth \$1.1 billion were made and rights issues returned to the market with a vengeance as \$600 million was sought from investors. At 1513 GMT the FTSE 100 index was down 18.7 at 2,132.9.

NEW YORK — Profit-taking weighed down the market in mid-morning. The Dow was down six at 2,473.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

McEnroe back problems not serious

FLORENCE, Italy (R) — The back problems which forced John McEnroe to withdraw from the French Open are not serious and the former world number one will definitely play at Wimbledon, McEnroe's manager Sergio Palmieri said Tuesday. "There is no cause for concern," Palmieri told Reuters. "He hasn't been able to start training after the back pains he suffered in the Netherlands in time for a tournament like the French Open. But there is absolutely no problem at all for Wimbledon," Palmieri said. He said doctors had ordered seven to 10 days complete rest in the Netherlands on May 12. But he said the three times Wimbledon champion had decided to take a couple more days off before resuming training, leaving little time to prepare for the French Open.

Recovered Austrian driver will race in Mexico

MARANELLO, Italy (AP) — Austrian Gerhard Berger, recovered from injuries sustained in a flaming crash one month ago, will race in Sunday's Mexican Grand Prix at the wheel of his new Ferrari, the Italian company announced Tuesday. Ferrari officials decided to start Berger in the fourth event of the 1989 world championship after the Austrian driver passed a critical test at the company track at Fiorano Tuesday. Berger, who crashed during the San Marino G.P. in Imola on April 23, turned 45 laps and said he felt fit to resume racing. A Ferrari spokesman said the decision to have Berger resuming his racing duties at the wheel of his Ferrari No. 28 was made after consultations between the driver's doctor, Willy Dungs, and team doctor Benigno Bartoletti. Berger, who suffered a rib fracture and burns on both hands following the crash, had said last week that his right hand still was aching.

British promoter clinches Moscow fight

LONDON (AP) — British boxing promoter Mike Barrett said Tuesday he has received Soviet approval to stage the first world title fight in Moscow in late October. Barrett said the professional boxing programme, which could be held in the 20,000-seat Olympic stadium on the last weekend in October, could feature as many as three world title bouts. The fight programme would include American and British boxers, he said, and would mark the first time a professional title fight had been held in the Soviet Union. "I've reached agreement with them (Soviets), that is done. There is no question about that," Barrett said in a telephone interview. "That's stage one. Stage two is tying up world championship fights together with television." Barrett, who spent Sunday and Monday in Moscow, said he would fly to the United States next week or the following week to discuss his plans with American television networks.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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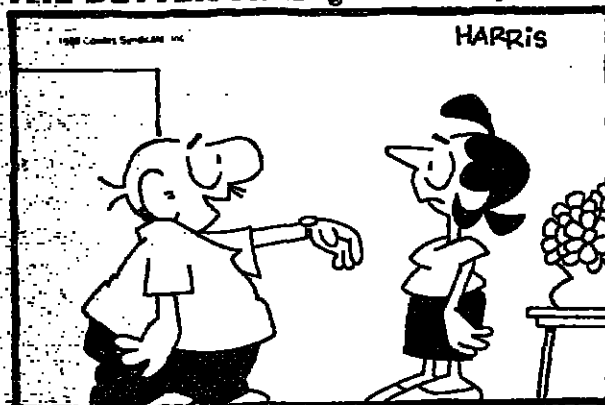
WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A975 ♠3 ♠AKJ ♠64
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 NT Pass 1 ♠ Pass
1 NT Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AKQ ♠AKQ97 ♠AJ93
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
2 ♠ Pass 2 NT 3 ♠
What action do you take?
- Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K76 ♠AK95 ♠K93 ♠QJ7
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass
What action do you take?
- Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K76 ♠AK95 ♠KJ32 ♠A7
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass
What action do you take?
- Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A9853 ♠73 ♠KJ62 ♠95
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K983 ♠KJ1062 ♠K8 ♠73
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.7—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K983 ♠KJ1062 ♠K8 ♠73
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.8—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K983 ♠KJ1062 ♠K8 ♠73
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

For information about Charles Goren's newsletter for bridge players, write Goren Bridge Letter, P.O. Box 4426, Orlando, Fla. 32802-4426.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"I bought a great new watch! Every day has four lunch hours!"

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

FAKCT
LEED
RAZABA
INFREY

Print answer here: " " " " " "

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: PIVOT DOWNY FAULTY BECOME Answer: Where you might see a shooting star—in a cowboy film

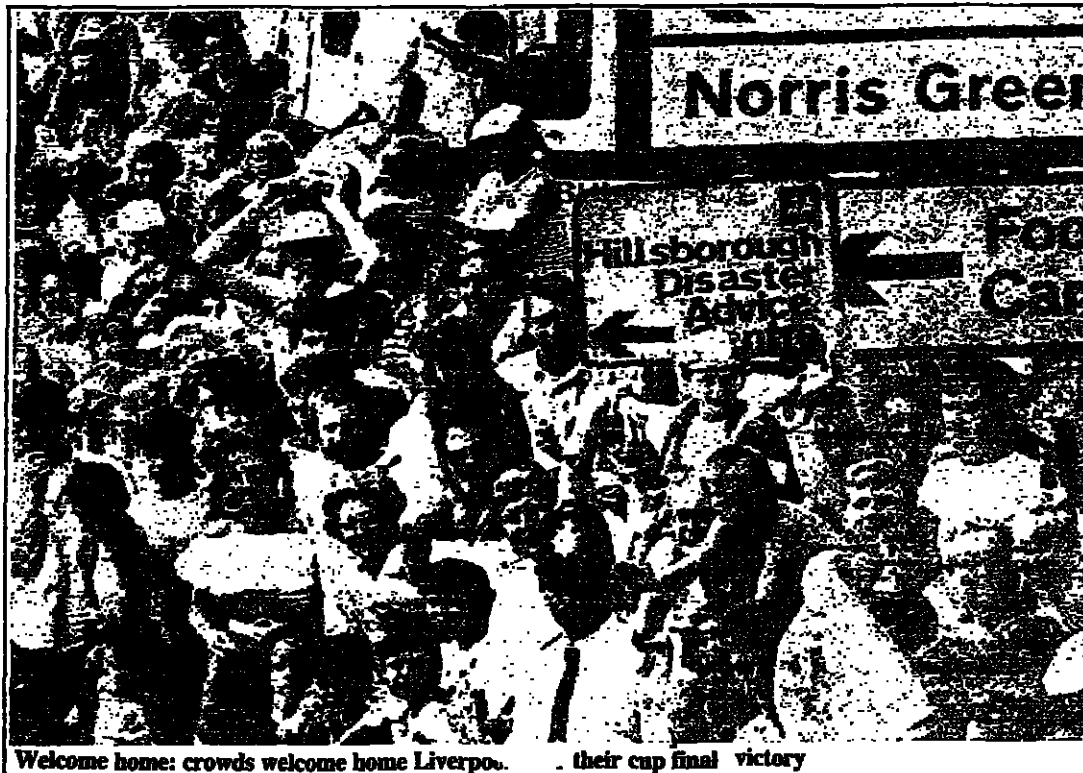


WHAT HE SAID WHEN HE COULDN'T FIND A DECENT PAIR OF SOCKS IN HIS DRAWER.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: PIVOT DOWNY FAULTY BECOME Answer: Where you might see a shooting star—in a cowboy film



Welcome home: crowds welcome home Liverpool... their cup final victory

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, MAY 25, 1989

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

by Thomas Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is a broad and better style day that deals with practical matters, productivity and work routines. Personal appearance and how others perceive us are linked to self-confidence and emotional security.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You establish a work record that is recognized by others. Your spirited flare is entertaining and changes other people's moods.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You have the ability to focus your attention and concentrate. A project and its rewards are nearing completion.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) There is a tendency to be too casual at the workplace. Look out and do your best at this time. You can win anything you set your mind to.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Plan a total makeover of your image so that even your family won't recognize you. Give consideration to finances.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Follow your own rules! Siblings respond to how you act rather than to what you say. Humor and music will inspire youthful conversation.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You might be looking at newer, greener pastures. A decision will have to be made shortly. Don't bare secrets to someone with a double face.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You are at your best when you stay on the sunny side. Relationships are moving along well, and you may be dancing all night.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Dictatorial attitudes get the job done but also produce a backlash from those affected. Search for more affordable housing.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You feel that you have hit bottom, and now it is time to bounce back with renewed vigor. Make your environment comfortable.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Test the waters before you commit yourself to a permanent arrangement. Check on siblings' academic progress and give them feedback.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) The Moon in your sign has you bringing people together and making everyone feel good. Tell them: "Rather than wine I want to dine."

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You are surrounded by lively people. Give someone you adore a token of your affection. Relationships are intense, fun and enlightening.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, MAY 26, 1989

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is a make-believe time that is perfect for this "T-G-I-F" day! Don't expect organized activities to stay that way. The evening hours can be filled with surprises that are humorous and entertaining.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You are itching for a fun fling and seek to escape from routine. You gain by taking the initiative. Remember to get your proper rest.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You don't like it when others tell you what to do. Avoid a lonely hearts day by socializing with others. Plan a party at home.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) An old flame could lighten up your spirits. A little play fun could add flavor. Stay away from someone who wants to kiss and tell.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) A smooth, sophisticated heartthrob may have more tarnish than you expected. You are gracious, generous and loyal.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Handle finances in a businesslike way. Someone thinks you are great, but you must make the first move. Plan to enjoy live entertainment.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) An associate has you on the warpath.

Avoid an "eye for an eye" philosophy which can boomerang. Make job security a priority.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Good news about finances! The money will come soon. You are influenced by beautiful people whose looks are deceiving.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Make recreational arrangements that will carry through the weekend. Avoid threats as a method of solving a problem.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Feelings can influence your thinking at this time. The voice of a lover can be sharp. Retire from a heated argument that gets tough.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Use your excess energy wisely. Stay calm, even if your patience is stretched. Use the evening to relax and create emotional stability.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Don't make a hasty promise that cannot be kept. Turn a deaf ear to gossip. Keep track of small, personal items that can get lost.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Buy a gift for someone you care about. Get an early start to beat traffic and parking problems. Be sure of who you are lending things to.

Soviets pull out of U.K. cycling tour unexpectedly

LONDON (AP) — The Soviet Union withdrew from a major British cycling race Tuesday just five days before its start, leaving race officials wondering whether their event had become the latest victim of a growing diplomatic row between the two nations.

The Soviet Cycling Federation sent a telex to organizers of the two-week milk race, saying it had to pull out of the event "due to an incomplete list of participants," but a race spokesman said he was perplexed by the wording of the message.

"It appears from the telex that they have had trouble raising a team," said spokesman Mike Price. "We find that difficult to believe but there is no one we can contact and we have to take them at face value."

The Soviets have been regular participants in the race since 1966 and have claimed the team title a record 10 times. Seven of the last 12 individual winners have been Soviets, including defending champion Vasily Zhdanov.

Price said the withdrawal was completely unexpected and there was no hint of Soviet team problems before Tuesday.

"We've never lost them before and you can read between the lines. You never know what they're thinking," Price said.

"We've never had this before. They came here during Afghanistan. Soviet cyclists have taken part in British events before when the governments have been at odds."

The pro-am race, which includes a prologue Sunday, formally begins Monday in London and ends June 10 in Birmingham after crossing through England and Wales.

Liverpool closes on double

LONDON (R) — West Ham United, consigned to English soccer's second division by their 5-1 thrashing by Liverpool Tuesday night, regard Arsenal's task of beating Liverpool by two goals Friday as "mission impossible."

If Arsenal, leaders for most of this season, are to snatch the title from the holders, that is what they must do at Anfield at the end of the most enthralling English League championship battle this century.

West Ham players — along with the rest of the soccer world — do not rate Arsenal's chances. "Anything is possible but Liverpool are the best club side in the country," said Hammers' defender Tony Gale. "When they have all their players fit they are superb, a joy to watch."

"We expected them to tire in the second half but instead they just seemed to get stronger. They are a very fit side," said Gale.

"By the end, we felt as if we had been in the cup final, not them," added fellow-defender Alvin Martin.

"They are the most creative side I have played against in a long long while and the final

score was disappointing because we did well for long periods of the game."

Arsenal manager George Graham, among others, might have expected Liverpool to look a little jaded after their extra time 3-2 FA Cup victory over Everton Saturday.

He must have been devastated as Liverpool rattled in three goals in the last 10 minutes.

Ironically the fateful blows to London's twin cause were struck by a player rejected early in his career by West Ham.

Ray Houghton painfully reminded his former club of his free transfer to Fulham by scoring his first goal in nine games at the crucial stage of the game.

He added the third as well before Ian Rush and John Barnes completed a rout.

John Aldridge's seventh goal in six games after 19 minutes had been matched by Leroy Rosenior.

"Obviously I feel sorry for them and I didn't want to see them go down," said Houghton. "But it is over 38 games, not just the one."

The title could be decided by

the slimmest of margins now. If Arsenal do win by two goals they will take it not on points, nor on goal difference, but for having scored more goals.

Houghton feels everything is playing into Liverpool's hands. "Arsenal had to come here and win anyway, but now it looks as if it must be a very open game, and if they attack us they might leave some space at the back and we have the players with pace to exploit it. It should be a great game."

The only glimmer of hope for Arsenal is that Scottish defender Alan Hansen implied out of Tuesday's game with a thigh strain and Steve Staunton, unable to play because of an ankle injury, is also doubtful for Friday's match.

Meanwhile manager Kenny Dalglish, now so close to leading Liverpool to a second league and cup double in four seasons, reacted with sadness to West Ham's demotion.

"They are a great club and it is a personal disappointment to me to see them go down. They are run on the same lines as Liverpool and the way they played proved what a good side they are."

Lakers lead Suns 2-0

INGLEWOOD, California (AP) — Byron Scott scored 30 points and Los Angeles outscored Phoenix 30-12 over a span of 12:20 in the second half Tuesday night as the Lakers beat the Suns 101-95 to take a 2-0 lead in the Western Conference finals.

The victory was the ninth in as many playoff games for the two-time defending National Basketball Association champion Lakers, equalling the playoff record for consecutive victories they set seven years ago.

It was also the 14th consecutive win for the Lakers including the regular season, and their 11th straight playoff victory dating back to last season.

A three-point play by Tom Chambers with 5:09 remaining in the third quarter gave the Suns a 68-60 lead, but the Lakers scored 11 of the final 16 points in the third quarter and 19 of the first 26 in the fourth period to go ahead 90-80 with 4:35 remaining.

Led by Dan Majerle, the Suns battled back in the late going.

Two foul shots by Majerle with 43 seconds remaining made it 96-93, but James Worthy made a layup with 25 seconds remaining and Scott sank three free throws in the final 15 seconds to keep the Lakers on top.

Magic Johnson scored 22 points for the Lakers and Worthy had 12 of his 19 points in the fourth quarter.

Kevin Johnson led Phoenix with 22 points, all but four in the first half. Chambers added 21 and Majerle and Jeff Hornacek had 16 each.

The series shifts to Phoenix for games 3 and 4 Friday night and Sunday afternoon. The Suns beat the Lakers in all three regular-season meetings on their home floor. Phoenix has lost 19 straight games at the forum dating to 1984.

Neither team led by more than six points until a jump shot by Hornacek with 6:53 left in the third quarter capped an 8-0 run and put the Suns ahead 65-57. Phoenix had led 55-51 at half-

time. The teams combined for only 38 points in the third quarter, 20 by the Lakers. The Suns made only seven of 24 field goal attempts in the period while the Lakers were just 8-for-23.

Neither team led by more than two points until Scott made a 3-pointer with 3:49 remaining in the first quarter, giving the Lakers a 21-18 lead. Los Angeles led 27-22 before the Suns scored the final six points of the period to go ahead 28-27.

Kevin Johnson and Scott tore each other up in the opening 12 minutes, Johnson scoring 12 points and Scott getting 11. Scott did his damage from the outside while Johnson went around Scott several times for layups.

A.C. Green had a career-playoff high five assists before the game was 10 minutes old. A 3-pointer by Chambers with 4:36 left before halftime capped a 7-0 run and put the Suns ahead 44-39, equalling the biggest lead by either team to that point.

Contini takes the pink jersey

MESSINA, SICILY (AP) — Italian veteran Silvano Contini Tuesday took the pink jersey of overall leader in the Italian cycling tour as his squad, Malvor Sidi, finished runnerup to Arioste in the third stage of the 32.5-kilometre against-the-clock race for teams.

Contini, 31, competing along with fellow-Italian Giuseppe Sarouni, Lech Piasecki of Poland and six other teammates, completed the distance from Villafra to Messina in 37:16 minutes and snatched the pink jersey from Portugal's Acacio Da Silva.

Da Silva's team, Carrera, lagged fifth in the stage, in 37:49 minutes. The reign of the Portuguese "climber" lasted a single day.

Da Silva, who dropped to second place overall 14 seconds behind Contini, had captured the pink jersey winning the second stage on Mt. Etna Monday.

Arioste, including Italy's Adriano Baffi, Swiss Stephan Joho and Denmark's Rolf Sorensen, score and upset victory in 37:00 minutes at an average speed of 52.702 kph. Panasonic, led by Dutch Erik

Brunkink, finished third, 24 seconds behind the winners.

World champion Maurizio Fondriest of Italy led the Del Tongo team to fourth place in the stage, in 37:34 minutes and moved into fourth place overall, with a gap of 27 seconds from Contini.

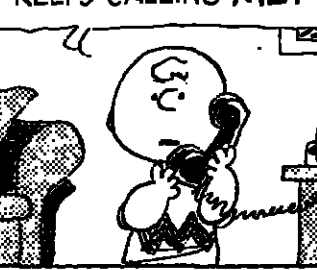
TVM-Ragno, including Australian Phil Anderson and Dutch Johan Van Der Velde, placed sixth in 38:03 minutes, ahead of Frenchman Laurent Fignon's super-U team, which was timed in 38:05.

Peanuts

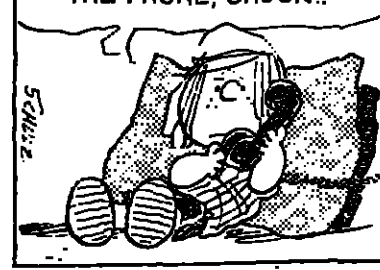
IF I FAIL THAT TEST TOMORROW, IT'LL BE YOUR FAULT, CHUCK, BECAUSE WE TALKED ON THE PHONE TOO MUCH..



YOU'RE THE ONE WHO KEEPS CALLING ME!



YOU SHOULDN'T ANSWER THE PHONE, CHUCK..

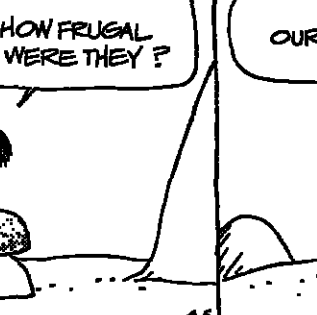


B.C.

OUR FAMILY WAS SO FRUGAL...



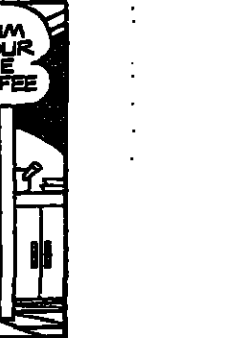
HOW FRUGAL WERE THEY?



OUR HAND-MAE-DOWNS WERE FIG LEAFS.



Andy Capp





Overseas boost for Chinese revolt

THE ONGOING revolt in Peking and other Chinese provinces have drawn widespread support from Chinese living outside the country as well as Hong Kong which is scheduled to be returned to Chinese control by 1997. Photo on right shows a demonstration in Washington demanding the resignation of Chinese Premier Li Peng, the ouster of Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping and the termination of martial law in the Chinese capital. On left is a demonstration in Hong Kong in which almost a one million took part in support of the Chinese from all walks of life who are now besieging Peking's central square demanding democratic reforms, including the ouster of Li and Deng as well as an end to the martial law, which Li proclaimed to counter the protesters.



Compromise ruled out in Panama amid OAS visit

PANAMA CITY (R) — Government and opposition ruled out compromise as an Organisation of American States (OAS) mission began seeking a solution to a crisis over the annulment of Panama's elections.

The delegation of three foreign ministers and OAS Secretary-General Joao arrived in Panama City Tuesday to a hostile reception from the government, which accused it of trying to interfere in Panama's internal affairs.

The delegates said they had no intention of meddling and were only trying to help Panama solve the crisis over the May 7 elections.

Independent observers say the opposition easily won the election despite what they said were attempts to steal the balloting by strongman General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

Both government and opposition made clear the mission, set up after a special OAS session condemned Noriega for abusing the elections, had little room to manoeuvre.

It was ordered to seek the best way to ensure "the transfer of power with full respect for the sovereign will of the Panamanian people."

Panama's cabinet said in a statement issued on the eve of the mission's arrival that it would welcome the initiative if it found

that conflict with the United States was the reason for the crisis.

"But the republic of Panama will never accept any act which constitutes interference in the sphere of its national sovereignty."

The opposition demanded recognition of what it says was an overwhelming victory in the elections and ruled out a coalition

government.

"The people spoke (in the elections). We won. Why should we give anything to the losers?" opposition vice-presidential candidate Guillermo Ford asked.

Noriega said in an interview published in local newspapers Tuesday that the OAS attitude towards Panama was the result of U.S. pressure and set a dangerous precedent.

The United States was closing all roads to a civilised understanding with Panama, he said in an interview with the Cuban news agency Prensa Latina.

"Here in Panama the last battle of the free people of America is being waged, imperialism has its last battle here. If Panama falls, all the other people seeking liberation will fall tomorrow..." he said.



Panamanian opposition presidential candidate Guillermo Endara is embraced by a supporter at Chorrera, 35 kilometres outside Panama City, where he attended a mass Sunday.

Soviet party ranks brought to heel

MOSCOW (R) — Amid a clamour of calls for greater democracy in the new Soviet Parliament, Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev appears to have resorted to Communist Party discipline to bring the majority of deputies to heel.

In the days leading up to Thursday's opening session of the parliament, the Congress of People's Deputies, many members have demanded that a whole range of social, political and legal issues be brought within its competence.

Radical reformists among the 2,250 members say it should be the sole legislative body of the parliament, rather than delegate authority to a smaller Supreme Soviet chosen from its members

and sitting in permanent session.

But vociferous as such demands have been, Soviet sources said the majority of deputies were unlikely to abandon a long tradition of voting in line with directives from above.

After meetings Tuesday of the Presidium of the outgoing Supreme Soviet and of the 100-member party bloc within the congress, the Soviet media indicated that the main function of the session would be to elect higher bodies and officials.

The Communist Party newspaper Pravda Wednesday issued a clear reminder to the 85 per cent of deputies who are also party members that they would be expected to comply with the decisions of its policy-making

Central Committee.

"The May plenum of the party Central Committee took place on the eve of congress," Pravda said in an editorial.

"It examined questions relating to the organisation of its (the congress's) work and dealt with the responsibility borne by communist deputies for ensuring the businesslike and constructive character of the forthcoming discussions."

The official news agency TASS spelled out the main task of the congress as the election of a president and it quoted the constitution as saying he should be a senior Soviet state figure. The party has nominated Gorbachev for the post.

"No agenda has been

announced for the session, but proceeding from the constitution, one can suppose that the congress will also deal with other organisational matters," TASS said, referring to the election of the Supreme Soviet.

It added that "journalistic circles" believed that the congress should have wider scope and said that "in all probability, discussions would develop on the main directions of domestic and foreign policy."

With proceedings at the session to be televised live, Gorbachev will be anxious to avoid open confrontation with the more radical deputies and indicated Tuesday that some concessions might be made to their demands.

'Cave woman' emerges into sun after 130 days

CARLSBAD (R) — An Italian researcher emerged from a desert cave Tuesday after a record 130 days in isolation and said, "Is that the sun? I love it."

But Stefania Folini, 27, immediately had to put on sunglasses to protect her eyes weakened by 188,000 minutes of semi-darkness.

As she climbed out of a man-hole-like steel entrance to the cave she told the dozens of researchers, reporters, photographers and well-wishers, "You are so beautiful."

Folini, whose feat was part of an experiment simulating the effects of space travel, emerged from the cave in the New Mexico desert looking pale and disoriented.

An interior decorator from Ancona, Italy, she had lived since Jan. 13 without human contact, except for the written words on a computer hookup to the surface.

She also had no clock or calendar and her sense of time became warped.

She said that although she lived in solitude in a Plexiglas habitat 10 metres underground, she was not lonely.

"I had all sorts of little friends down there, such as little mice, little grasshoppers and little frogs," she said.

She made special friends with two mice, who were already in the cave. She named them Giuseppe and Nicole.

Folini, who surpassed the previous record for a woman by 19

days, read 100 books while in the cave. She said she spent many hours in vivid recollection of her friends and often spoke to herself about her memories.

"I talked to everybody down there but it was difficult to talk to the mice, even though I was always right," she said.

An ambulance waited nearby to take Folini to a hospital in nearby Carlsbad and then to a psychiatric clinic.

Results of the Folini isolation study will be used in planning extended space missions by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), which cooperated with Italian researchers in the experiment.

Project leader Maurizio Montalbini told reporters that because

the isolation had so disrupted her sense of time, Folini thought Monday was only March 14 instead of May 22.

Folini displayed several "disturbing symptoms" of her seclusion, research team members said.

In addition to weight loss and disruption of sleep cycles, Folini began showing signs of extreme lethargy and inability to maintain attention to simple tasks.

Blood samples passed to the surface showed a drop in calcium levels, perhaps indicating a decline in bone density due to lack of sunlight, Montalbini said.

She went for nearly three months without ovulating and then ovulated three times in less than three weeks, he said.

American erotic comedy wins Golden Palm Award

PARIS (Agencies) — The U.S. erotic comedy "Sex, Lies and Videotape" won the coveted Golden Palm Award for best entry at the 42nd Cannes Film Festival Tuesday.

The film scooped two prizes. American James Spader won the best actor award for his role as a mixed-up seducer in director Steven Soderbergh's peep at a family plunged into sexual turmoil.

American Meryl Streep received best actress award for her portrayal in the film "A Cry in the Dark" of Lindy Chamberlain, convicted in one of the Australia's most sensational murder trials of killing her baby in 1980.

Cannes jury president, West

German director Wim Wenders, said the American comedy film had given the 10-strong panel "a great deal of pleasure and hope for the future of the film industry."

"Sex, Lies and Videotape" centres on the relationship between four young Americans, a husband, wife, the wife's vampish sister and an old friend of the husband, played by Spader, who reveals all is not well in the cozy family atmosphere.

Spader's character seduces both his friend's wife and her sister in an attempt to cure his impotence. His only means of attaining sexual gratification is by watching women describe their sex lives on camera.

"Sex, Lies and Videotapes,"

was 26-year-old Soderbergh's first full-length film.

Streep's best actress award, which topped an all-American evening at one of the film industry's most prestigious events, added another crown to the 40-year-old star's growing list of achievements.

Here is a list of other awards presented Tuesday night at the close of the festival:

— Special jury prize (tie): "Trop Belle Pour Toi" (Too Beautiful for You), French, directed by Bertrand Blier;

— Golden Palm for short film: "50 Ans" (50 years), Canada, directed by Gilles Carles, produced by the Canadian National Film Board; mentions to "Yes We Can," the United States, directed by Faith Hub-

— Grand Prix of the technical commission: "Kurori Ame" (Black Rain); Japan, directed by Shohei Imamura.

— A special prize was awarded to Gregory Peck for his lifetime contribution to the cinema.

The winning films were among 22 in the official competition.

Booes could be heard from the audience at the Palais des Festivals when no one came forward to collect the best actress prize for Streep, who was in town only for the showing of her film May 13, at the start of the festival. American actor Jack Palance, on stage to help present the award, stepped in to accept Streep's prize.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Spanish publishers produce 'The Satanic Verses'

MADRID (R) — A Spanish edition of Salman Rushdie's controversial novel "The Satanic Verses" went on sale Tuesday, produced jointly by 18 publishing firms. Barcelona-based firm Seix Barral dropped plans to publish the book in February amid an international storm over the novel, which many Muslims consider blasphemous. The jointly published version was encouraged by the Spanish culture ministry.

Model wins Miss Universe contest

CANCUN (R) — Miss Holland, a 22-year-old blonde, won the Miss Universe beauty contest here Tuesday night, collecting more than \$300,000 in cash and prizes. "I'm in a state of shock," Angela Visser, a model from Rotterdam, said after the crowning. Second was Miss Sweden, 19-year-old Louise Drenth, a hairdresser. In third place was Miss USA, cattle and real estate broker Gretchen Polhemus, 24. Miss Poland, 21-year-old Joanna Gapinska, came fourth while Miss Mexico, Adriana Abascal, 18, was fifth.

Sirhan denied parole for 10th time

SOLEDAD, California (R) — Sirhan Sirhan, convicted assassin of Senator Robert Kennedy, was denied parole for the 10th time Tuesday despite claiming Kennedy was his hero. Sirhan, a 46-year-old Palestinian who has spent the last 20 years in prison, was denied parole by the California board of prison terms in a five-hour hearing in Soledad prison. Sirhan has said in the past he believed Kennedy, a Democrat who at the time was campaigning to become president, was a supporter of Israel.

Lee Huan selected as Taiwan premier

TAIPEI (AP) — Lee Huan, secretary general of the governing Nationalist Party, was selected Wednesday to succeed Yu Kuo-Hua as premier. Yu, 75, who resigned last week under fire for his cautious approach to economic and political reforms, will serve until later this month when the lawmaking legislative Yuan, controlled by the nationalists, will formally approve Lee Huan's appointment. A statement from the party said Lee's appointment was approved unanimously by the 31 members of the policy-making central standing committee at a regular weekly meeting chaired by President Lee Teng-hui, who had nominated Lee.

World population rising again

WASHINGTON (AP) — The world's population growth, after having slowed in the 1970s, is speeding up once more, the Population Reference Bureau reported Tuesday. As of mid-1989, the world will contain about 5.24 billion people, nearly a quarter-billion more than in 1987, the private research group said. Demographers Carl Haub and Mary Kent report that the expansion from five billion to six billion could be attained within less than a decade if growth continues at current rates. The world is adding about 90 million people per year.

France conducts 105th nuclear test

WELLINGTON (R) — France has tested a small nuclear device at Mururoa atoll in the Pacific Ocean, the second this month and 105th in its underground series, New Zealand government scientists said Wednesday. The Department of Scientific and Industrial Research said in a statement the two kilotonne device was detonated on May 20 but it had not been detected immediately because of its relatively small size. New Zealand, along with other South Pacific nations, has consistently opposed the tests in French Polynesia.

Study disputes coffee-heart disease link

CHICAGO (R) — A study of more than 6,000 men and women has uncovered no evidence that drinking coffee leads to heart disease, researchers reported Tuesday. "Coffee intake was not associated with cardiovascular disease in either smokers or non-smokers, irrespective of sex," said the report published in this month's Archives of Internal Medicine. The findings came from a National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute study of people in Framingham, Massachusetts. It involved an analysis of 2,648 men and 3,566 women who were studied from 1954 to 1958 and again from 1971 to 1973.

Panel votes for FSX restrictions

WASHINGTON (AP) — A U.S. House of Representatives committee voted Tuesday to soften Senate-passed conditions on the transfer of U.S. aerospace technology to Japan for the production of the FSX jet fighter. But Republican members said the legislation remains vulnerable because President Bush opposes any restrictions on his ability to negotiate the agreement with the Japanese government. Congressman William Broomfield, a Republican, said he has been told by Secretary of State James A. Baker that any restrictions on the FSX deal would be vetoed.

Bhutto begins visit to Turkey

ANKARA (AP) — Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto arrived Wednesday for an official visit to Turkey, her first to a South Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) member country. Bhutto was accompanied by her husband, Asif Ali Zardari, and a large delegation, was welcomed at the airport by Premier Turgut Ozal. Ozal, in a welcoming statement, stressed the friendly ties between the two countries and said Turkey was pleased with the return to democracy in Pakistan. Bhutto will hold talks with Ozal and President Kenan Evren on economic cooperation, the Afghanistan situation, and other regional issues, according to Pakistan embassy and the Turkish Foreign Ministry officials.

COLUMN

Police attack attack wrong car

OSLO (AP) — An anti-terrorism exercise backfired on when a police officer dressed as a terrorist attacked the wrong car, police said Friday. The Verdens Gang newspaper said the black-clad police "terrorist" leaped onto a public highway near the town of Aalesund and fired a salvo of blanks from his machine gun at a car driven by Otto Giskeoedgaard, who knew nothing of the exercise. Giskeoedgaard fled by backing full-speed down the highway, only to collide with the unmarked police car that was supposed to have been the target of the mock attack. "We heard shots and saw flames coming out of the barrel of the gun that was pointed at our windshield," Giskeoedgaard told the paper. Instead of fleeing "I could just as easily have decided to run him down," he said.

Popularity is not always a blessing

ENID, Oklahoma (AP) — Some residents have found out that being a fan of television actor Lee Majors is enough to prevent them from serving as jurors. "I'm afraid I would be prejudiced because I'm a fan of Mr. Majors," Ernest Werner said Tuesday during jury selection for trial on a lawsuit the actor filed against an Enid Oil and Gas Producer. Werner was dismissed, but numerous other fans of Majors, star of "The Fall Guy," "The Six-Million Dollar Man" and "The Big Valley," lingered near the courtroom. Majors and Enid businessman Ray Davis are seeking about \$3 million in damages from oil and gas producers Vaughn and Laura Good, claiming money they invested was misused. Lawyers for the Goods allege Majors and Davis sued because of anger over the drop in oil prices.

2 Picasso works stolen

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Thieves broke into a modern art gallery in South Africa's largest city and stole two rare Picasso works each valued at more than \$50,000, a gallery director said Saturday. Horacio Penteado, director of the Association of Friends of Modern Art, said thieves broke into a small gallery in downtown Sao Paulo, the continent's largest city, early Friday morning. He said they stole an etching and a ceramic figure by Pablo Picasso from an 80-piece collection of 20th century art. He said the etching, "Goat's Head on a Table," and the ceramic piece, called "The Dove," were completed in the 1940s by the 20th century Spanish surrealist.

'Heavy Metal' — the leaping frog

ANGELS CAMP, California (AP) — After 21 years of entering frogs in the Calaveras County Fair and jumping frog jubilee, Tom Beatty won with a leaper whose name is rich in literary meaning — "Heavy Metal." The heavy favourite in Mark Twain's tall tale about jumping frogs lost because it had been loaded with buckshot. Heavy Metal, the last of 76 entrants in the 61st annual contest Sunday, jumped 603 centimetres to win the prize as a crowd of 7,000 cheered, said fair spokeswoman Jewel Lucken. Angels Camp, a former gold rush town, hosts the jubilee to honour Twain's 1865 short story "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County." In the story, gamblers loaded up the ace jumper so heavily the frog couldn't get off the ground. On Sunday, each frog got three jumps from the centre of a circle, and the distances were totalled. Handlers were allowed to scream, dance or do anything but touch their frogs to get them to jump. Gary Johnson's Moon Shine placed second at 589 centimetres.

Global weather

(major world cities)

	MM	F	C	F	W
AMSTERDAM	15	59	26	79	Cloudy
ATHENS	14	57	19	66	Cloudy
BAHRAIN	26	79	26	79	Clear
BANGKOK	28	82	28	82	Clear
BEIRUT	19	66	27	81	Clear
BRUSSELS	14	57	22	72	Clear
Buenos Aires	14	57	21	69	Clear
CANBERRA	18	64	26	79	Clear
CHICAGO	13	56	28	82	Rain
COPENHAGEN	12	54	24	75	Clear
FRANKFURT	12	54	20	68	Clear
GENEVA	11	52	26	79	Clear
HONG KONG	24	75	27	81	Clear
ISTANBUL	10	50	15	59	Cloudy
LOS ANGELES	18	64	20	68	Clear
MADRID	14	58	24	75	Clear
MEXICO	28	82	24	75	Clear
MONTREAL	08	46	23	73	Cloudy
MOSCOW	08	46	13	55	Cloudy
NEW DELHI	27	81	26	79	Clear
NEW YORK	13	56	23	73	Clear
PARIS	17	63	26	79	Clear
ROME	14	57	25	77	Clear
TOKYO	17	63	25	77	Clear
VIENNA	14	57	26	79	Clear